小浜砲雷長

「畝傍」の攻撃手段、主砲や高角砲による砲撃と魚雷による攻撃（雷撃）を指揮する。戦場においても華やかさを失わない、グラマーなお姉さんだ。好きなものは、いい男。嫌いなものは悪臭。砲術の腕は確かで、砲雷長ながら自ら主砲射手を務めて命中弾を連発することも。

くろがね

黒鉄 ぷかぷか隊

栗橋伸祐

Vol.3

Kurogane PUKAPUKA Tai
presented by Kurihashi Shinsuke

黒鉄 ぷかぷか隊 3
栗橋伸祐

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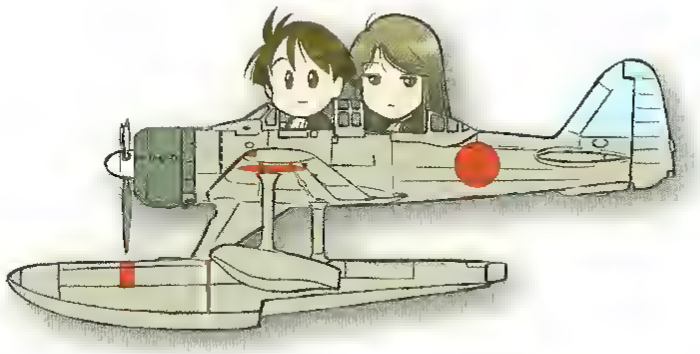

日本海軍のひみつ兵器は、女の子だらけの通商破壊艦！
――インド洋方面に投入された「敢傍」は、敵国商船を攻撃して物資の輸送を阻止する＂通商破壊＂が任務の軍艦。商船隊を守り、海域の安全を確保しようとする英海軍やオーストラリア海軍の護衛艦と戦うこととなる。どういうわけか乗組員が女の子ばかりの「敢傍」は、敵艦たちとの戦いを切り抜けることができるのか……!?

「黒鉄ぶかぶか隊」好評連載中！

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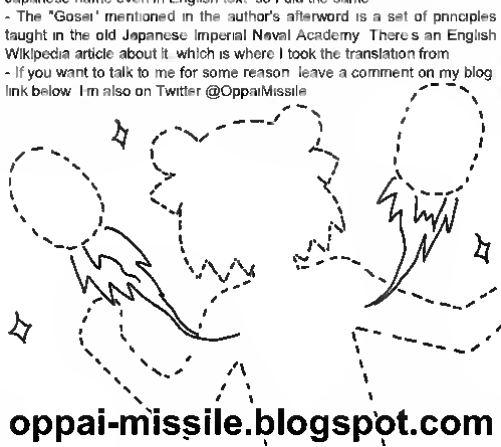
Kurogane PUKAPUKA Tai

黒鉄ぷかぷか隊 Vol.3

Preemptive translation notes and stuff

- First of all, thanks to swedish_kitsune from /u/ for buying and scanning the volume. Obviously this release wouldn't have been possible without raw scans. That said, kitsune provided the raws in well "raw" form. I had to optimize them myself (rotate, resize, crop, level) which I hadn't done before to this extent, but I think I did okay. There were some blurred areas that I couldn't do anything about though.
- Like in the previous volume, I should stress that I'm not very knowledgeable on technical terms such as military ranks and models of boats and planes. I did a little research when necessary, so it should be fine, but don't crucify me if I called a type of boat the wrong thing or something. It's nothing that'll affect the story anyway.
- On that note, I'm not entirely sure why Rackham says after chapter 28 that her dream is to become a battleship Captain, even though she's already referred to as Captain. I'm guessing the Europe doesn't technically count as a "battleship".
- The new character in chapter 25 is an obvious reference to Char Aznable from Mobile Suit Gundam and several of her lines are directly lifted from Char, but some of it gets lost in translation due to contextual differences. You should still get it if you know your Gundam, and if you don't, it doesn't matter.
- Also in chapter 25, the "Hineri-komi" is an airplane maneuver used by Japanese pilots in World War II. Apparently it's usually called by its Japanese name even in English text, so I did the same.
- The "Gosei" mentioned in the author's afterword is a set of principles taught in the old Japanese Imperial Naval Academy. There's an English Wikipedia article about it, which is where I took the translation from.
- If you want to talk to me for some reason, leave a comment on my blog, link below. I'm also on Twitter @OppaiMissile.



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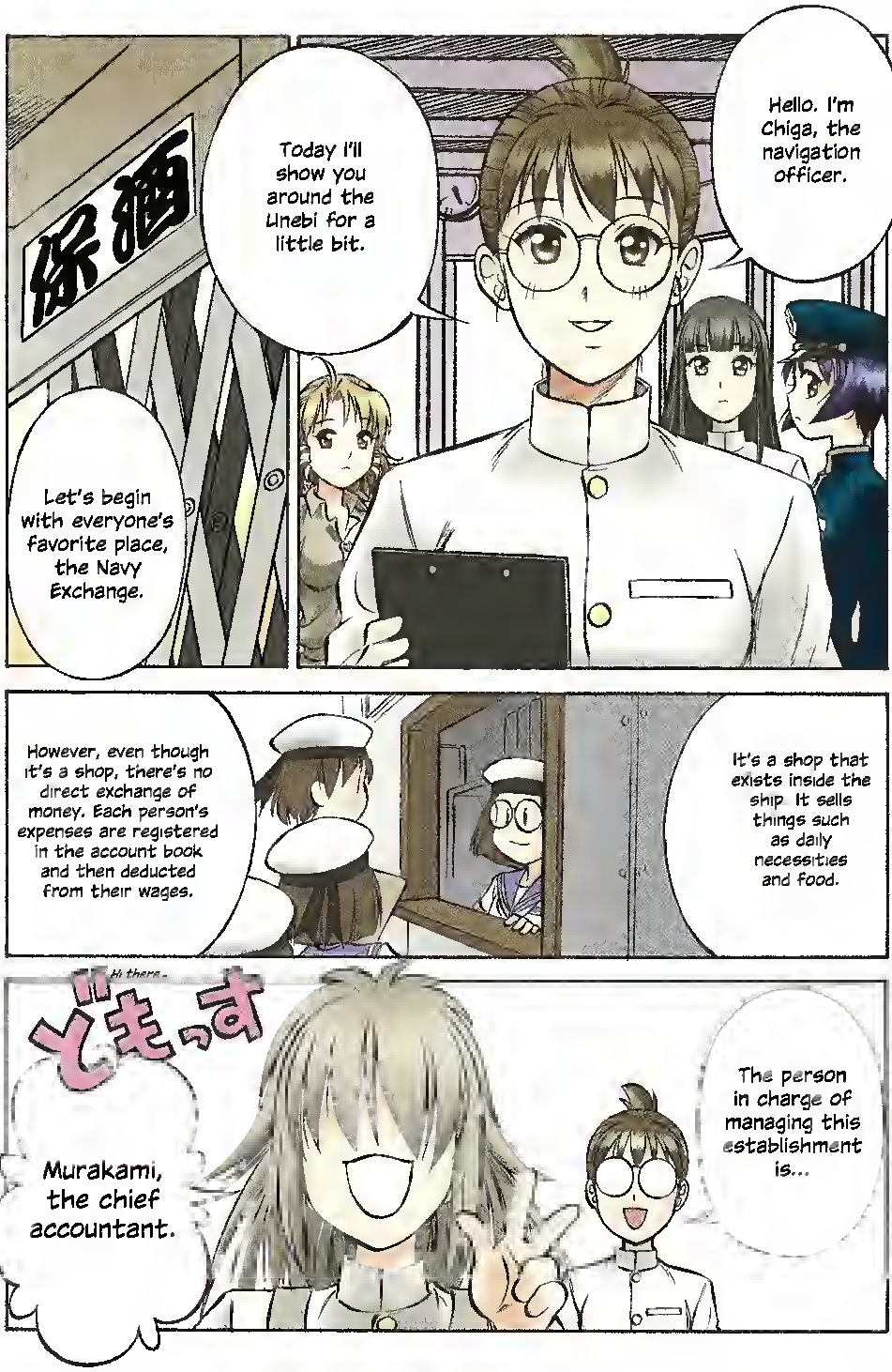
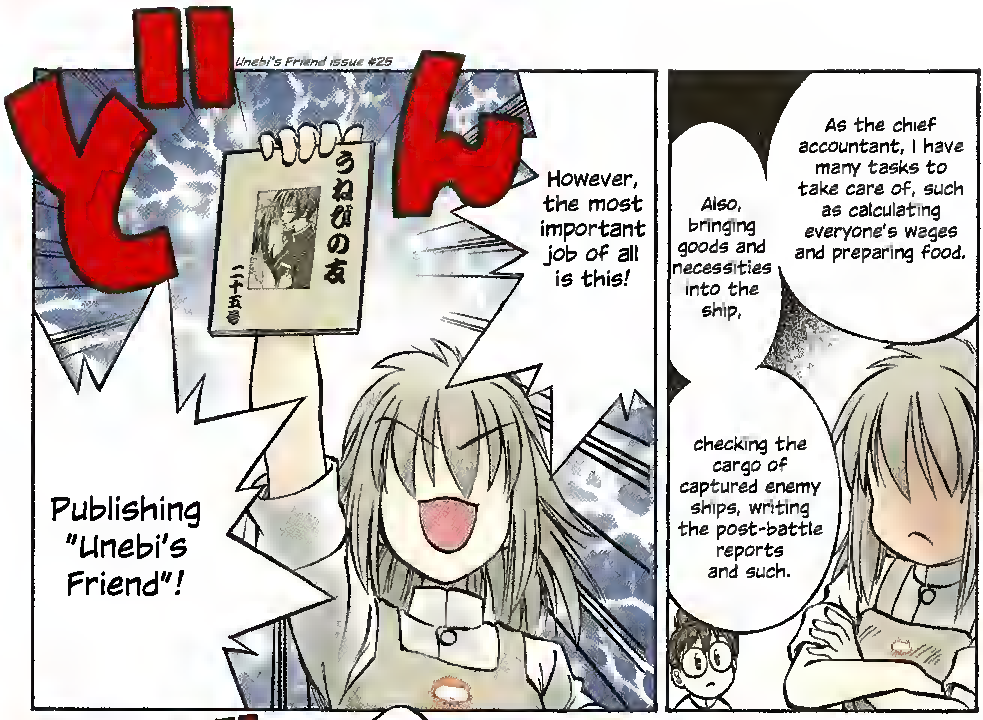
黒鉄（くろがね）ぷかぷか隊

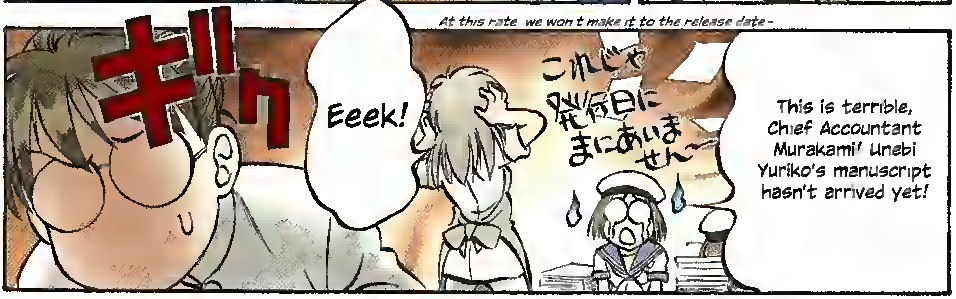
通商破壊艦「畝傍（うねび）」

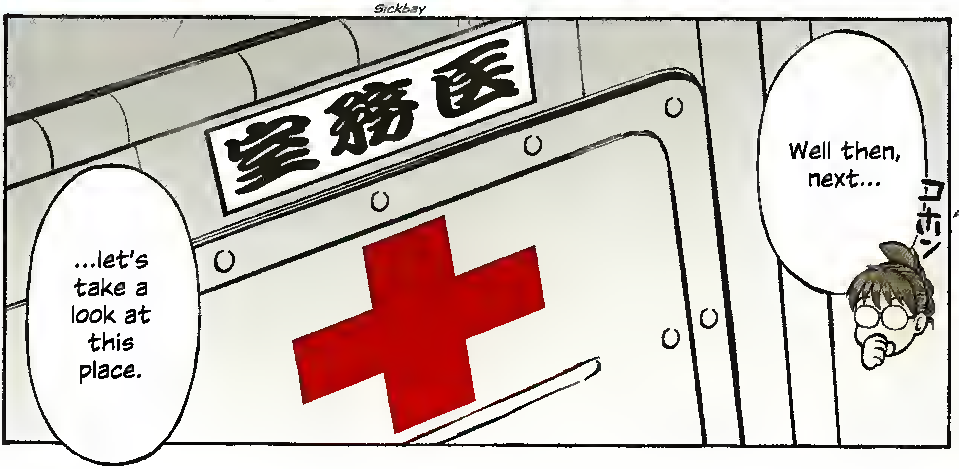
栗橋伸祐

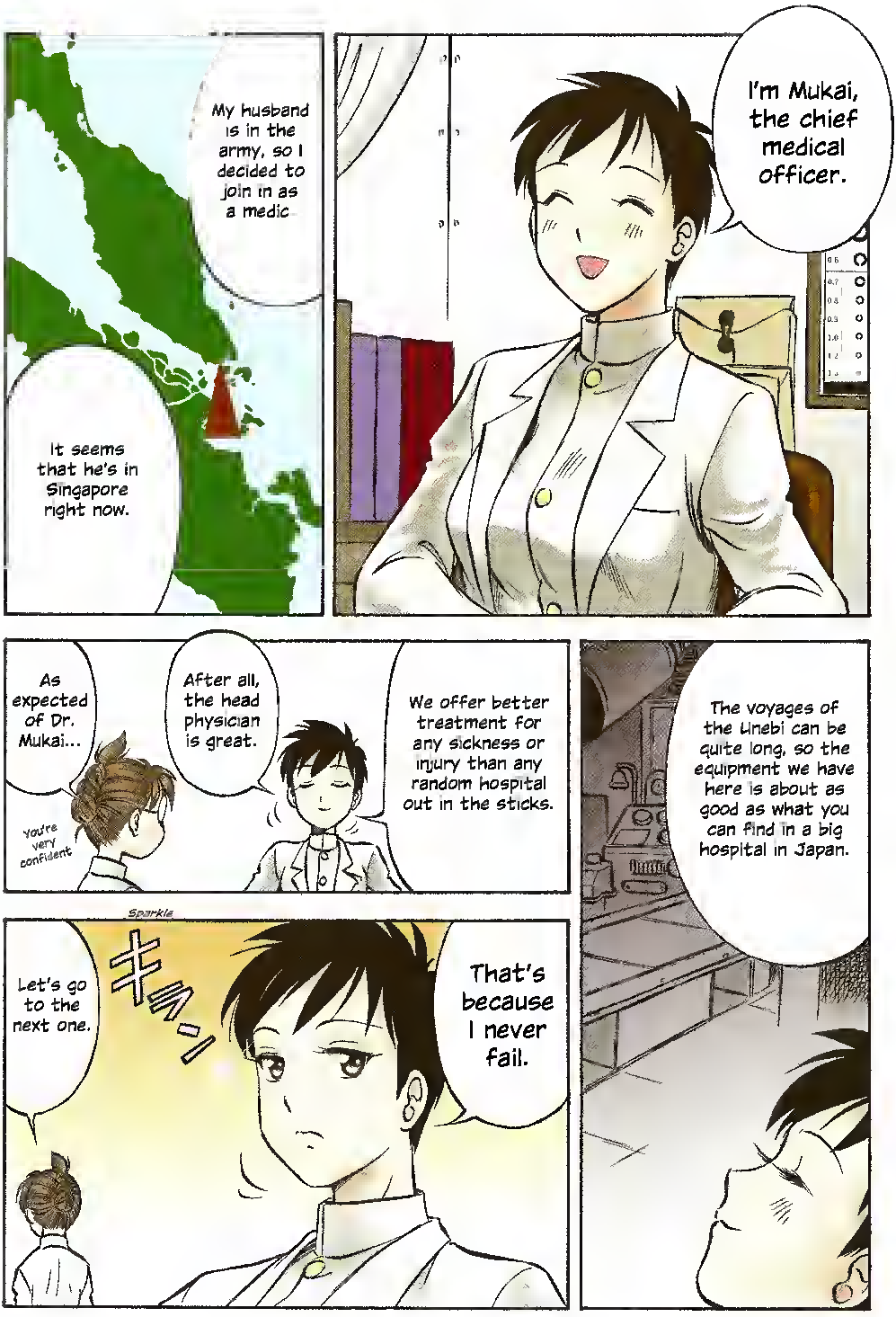
イカロス出版

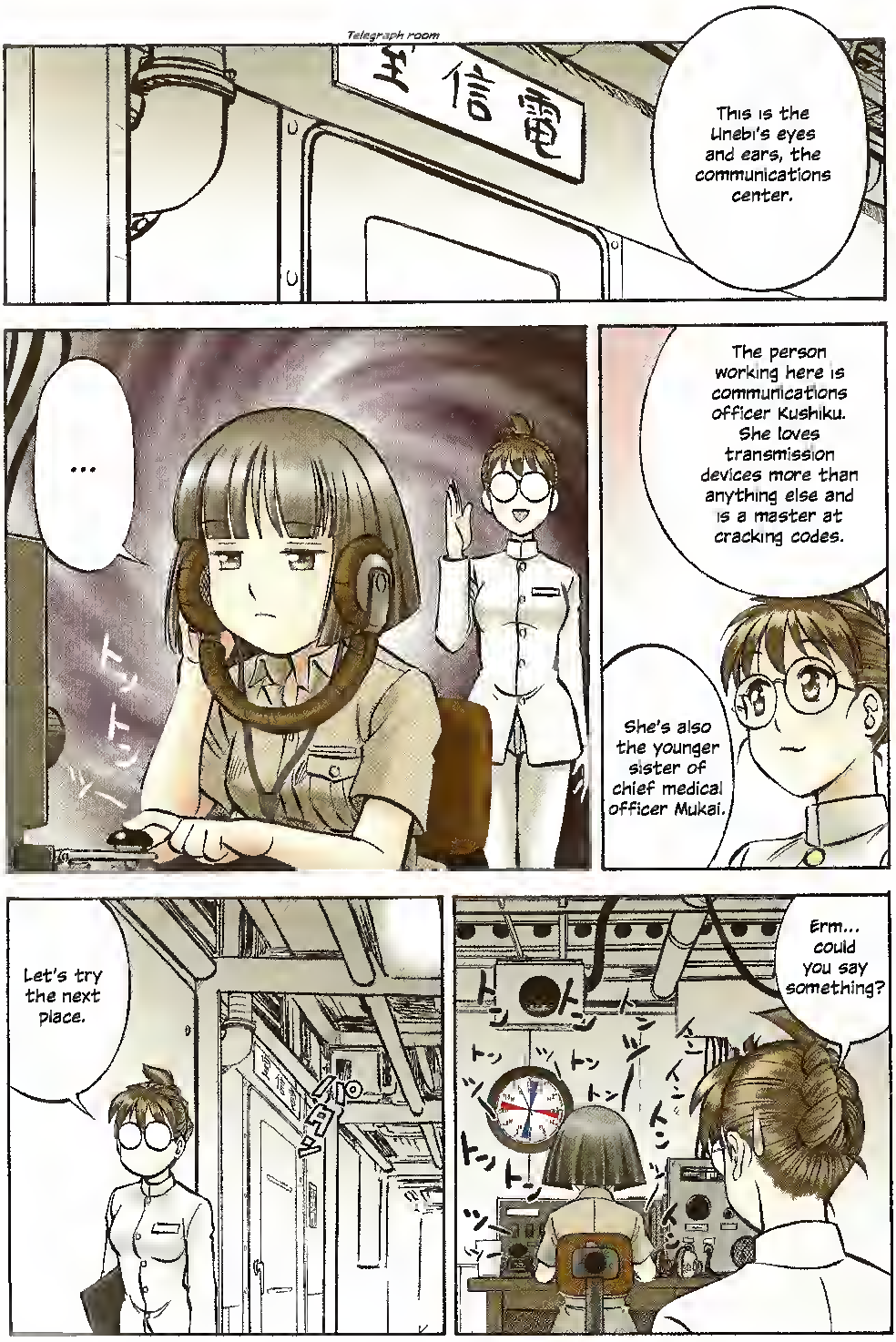

酒保
Hello. I'm Chiga, the navigation officer.
Today I'll show you around the Unebi for a little bit.
Let's begin with everyone's favorite place, the Navy Exchange.
It's a shop that exists inside the ship. It sells things such as daily necessities and food.
However, even though it's a shop, there's no direct exchange of money. Each person's expenses are registered in the account book and then deducted from their wages.
Hi there -
どもっす
The person in charge of managing this establishment is...
Murakami, the chief accountant.


どん
Unebi's Friend issue #25
うねびのとも
二十五号
Publishing "Unebi's Friend"!
However, the most important job of all is this!
As the chief accountant, I have many tasks to take care of, such as calculating everyone's wages and preparing food.
Also, bringing goods and necessities into the ship,
checking the cargo of captured enemy ships, writing the post-battle reports and such.

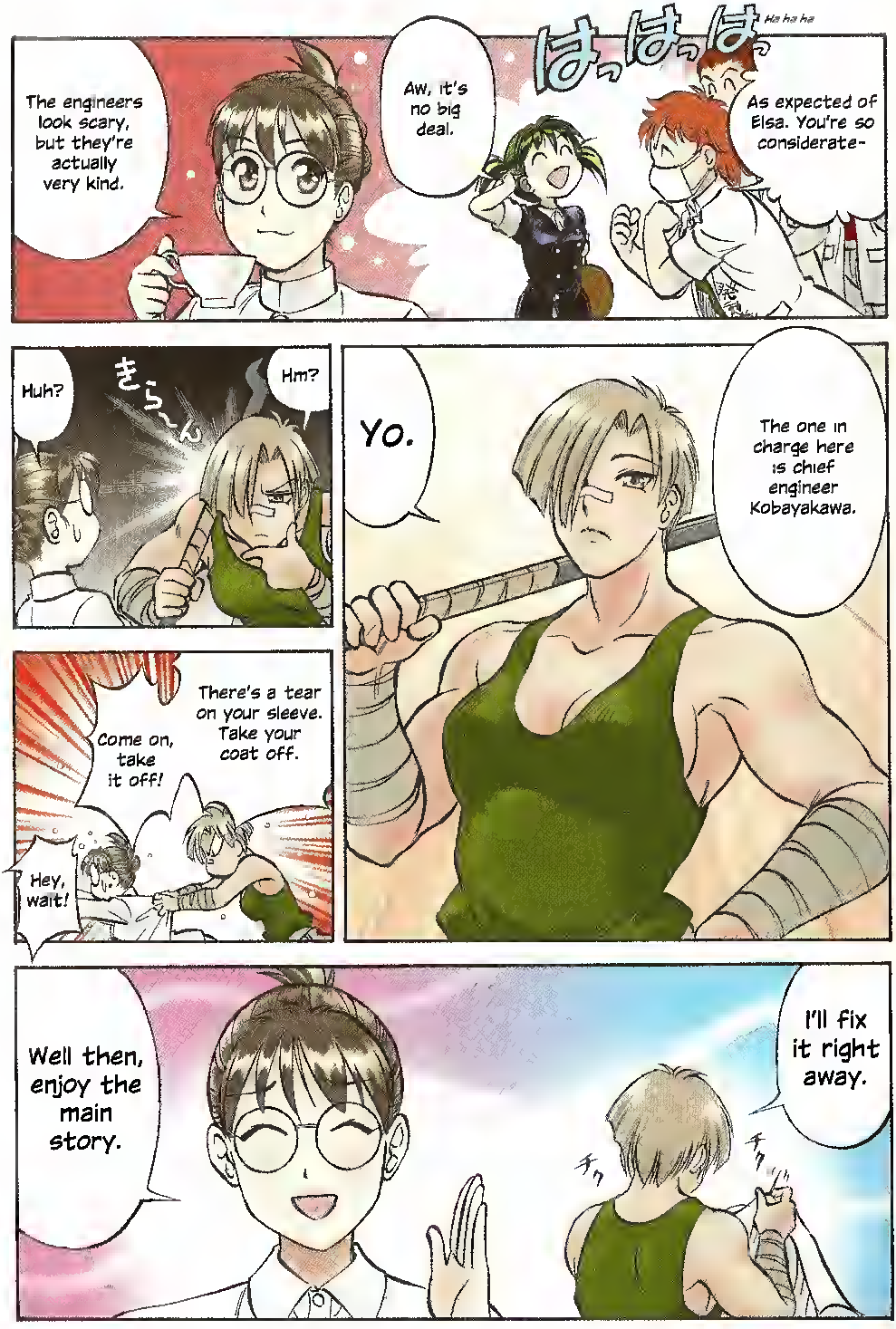

At this rate we won't make it to the release date -
キック
Eeek!
This is terrible, Chief Accountant Murakami! Unebi Yuriko's manuscript hasn't arrived yet!


Sickbay
軍務医
...let's take a look at this place.
Well then, next...
A-hem


My husband is in the army, so I decided to join in as a medic
It seems that he's in Singapore right now.
I'm Mukai, the chief medical officer.
As expected of Dr. Mukai...
You're very confident
After all, the head physician is great.
We offer better treatment for any sickness or injury than any random hospital out in the sticks.
The voyages of the Unebi can be quite long, so the equipment we have here is about as good as what you can find in a big hospital in Japan.
Sparkle
キラーン
Let's go to the next one.
That's because I never fail.


Telegraph room
This is the Unebi's eyes and ears, the communications center.
...
ツーツー
The person working here is communications officer Kushiku. She loves transmission devices more than anything else and is a master at cracking codes.
She's also the younger sister of chief medical officer Mukai.
Let's try the next place.
ハロー
Erm... could you say something?
トン
ツー

Engine room
機関室
This is the Unebi's heart.
Well, last but not least...
ドオン
The engineering crew.
Here, have some tea.
Sup
ちぃーす
T-Thanks.
Welcome to our filthy workplace, big sis Chiga.
Navigation officer.


The engineers look scary, but they're actually very kind.
Aw, it's no big deal.
はっはっは
Ha ha ha
As expected of Elsa. You're so considerate-
Huh?
きらーん
Hm?
Yo.
The one in charge here is chief engineer Kobayakawa.
There's a tear on your sleeve. Take your coat off.
Come on, take it off!
Hey, wait!
Well then, enjoy the main story.
I'll fix it right away.
チッ
チッ

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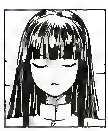
Cast introduction

Captain Bettou
Always on the bridge sipping tea, he rubs his body with a dry towel every morning. He loves bonsai and looks like a good-natured old man, but he's actually an old soldier who saw combat at the Sea of Japan.

Chief Engineer Kobayakawa
The muscular leader of the engine room. He's a black belt in Judo. On the other hand, she uses materials obtained from enemy ships to design clothes, which is her more skillful side.

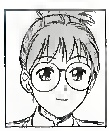
Executive Officer Kuki
Executive officer of the commerce raiding ship Unebi. Her personality is serious. The crew has nicknamed her "Cookie". Mamiya and others have fallen for her despite the gender barrier.

Chief Accountant Murakami
In addition to managing the Unebi's supply of goods, the chief accountant also handles the shop at the Navy Exchange and the internal publication "Unebi's Friend".



Chief of Internal Affairs Mamiya
Head over heels in love with Kuki. However, she is unable to convey her feelings and anguishes while embracing her delusions. She's a master swordswoman.

Captain Ann
Captain of the British Navy Cruiser Aldebaran. She skillfully leads her ship to chase the Unebi around. Likes girls and fell for Cookie at first sight. She's a kissing demon.



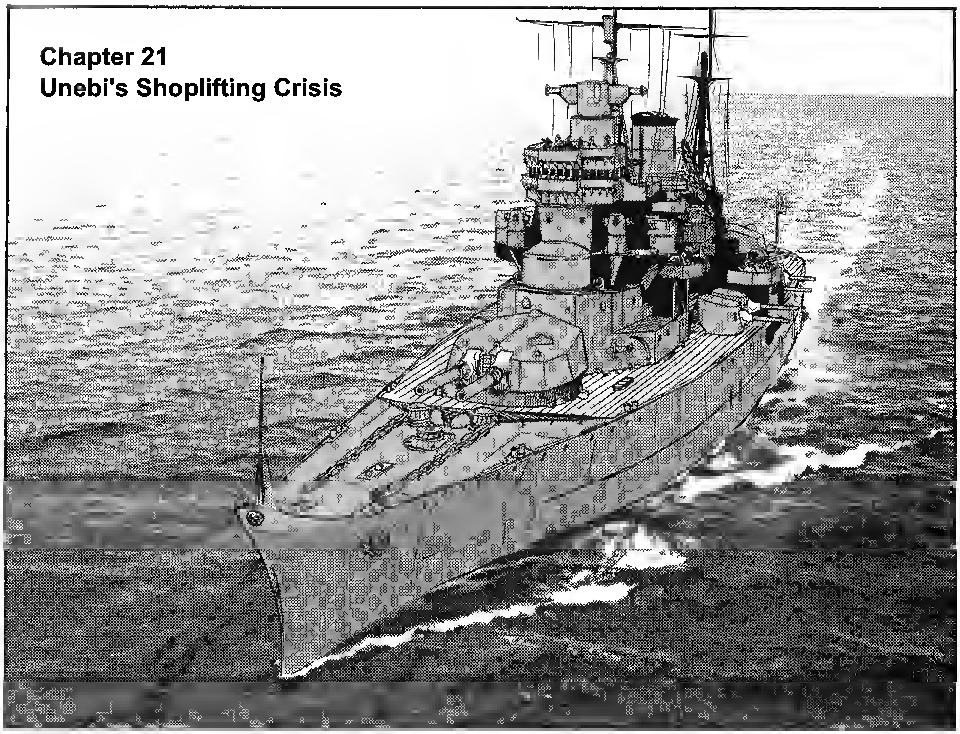
Navigation Officer Chiga
Usually she's a quiet lady who performs her job with little passion, but she's capable of dishing out some sharp remarks. Her skills at the wheel and at navigation are top class. She can remove her glasses to activate her super mode.

Executive Officer Mary
Executive officer of the British Navy Cruiser Aldebaran. Has really good eyes. Serves as an aide to Captain Ann, but their relationship seems to extend beyond the professional level.

Gunnery Officer Obama
A glamorous lady. Even in the battlefield she doesn't lose her feminine glow, but is also reliable once a battle actually starts.

Captain Rackham
Captain of the British Heavy Cruiser Europa. Her personality is serious and has a grudge against Ann. She secretly has feelings for Mary, but

Chapter 21
Unebi's Shoplifting Crisis



Reporting it would be such a pain..
We can make up for the stolen goods in the register.
Guh.
Dingdong
Hm!
It's just some stolen candy, but it happened three days in a row already
Should we report this to the higher-ups?
A pain, you say?
Ouch ouch ouch ouch!
Chief Accountant Murakami~
Stinging
Chief Accountant Murakami, now the food warehouse is in trouble!
C-Come on, XO, our navy has a tradition of overlooking internal shoplifting.

Now that it's gone this far, there's no way I can overlook it.
ずーん
くしゃ
COFFEE
Ugh.
Twitch
Catch the culprit immediately, Murakami.
Unabi's friend's deadline is...
うねびの友のメ切りが
めんどくさい
What a pain
What a pain
What a pain
What a pain
What a pain
What a pain
XO~ Do your best~
Alright already! I'll just take care of it myself!
庫料食

No, it's fine...
Sorry for dragging you into this, Mamiya.
I'm so happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy happy
Together with the XO...
Let's begin with the kitchen.
Clench
Yes, ma'am.
キリッ
It might be an enemy spy...
Don't let your guard down, Mamiya. Someone mean enough to do this couldn't be one of our girls.

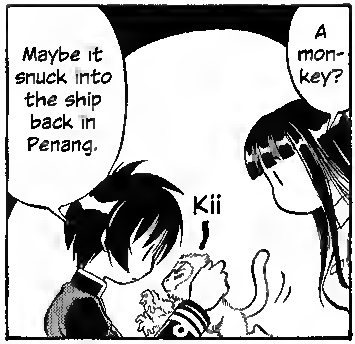
ギラン
5番台
XO, the refrigerator is open.
Mamiya, watch out!

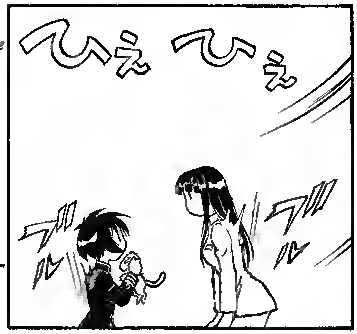
ハロー
ハロー
Soaked.
ぐっしょり。
I'm sorry, XO...
!
ナデラ!
ハッ!

Hold it right there!
Damn you!
Eh?
Mamiya, it's heading your way! Catch it!

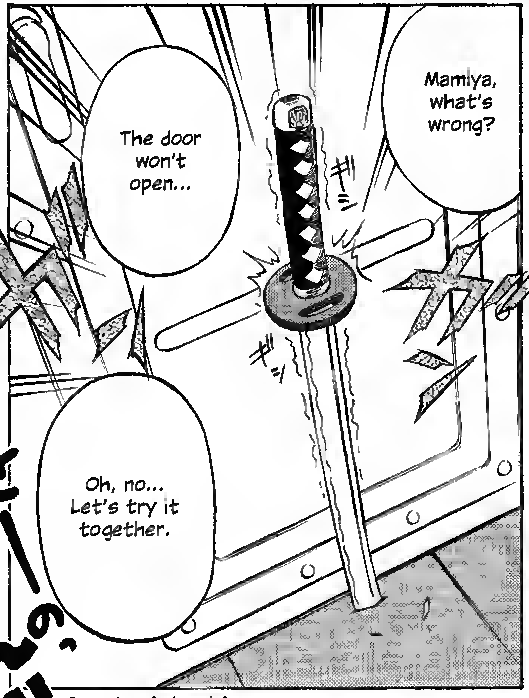
Don't cut it down!
Capture it!
Whoa!

Roll roll roll
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ヒュン…
XO, are you okay?!
Hey, don't struggle!
ガ

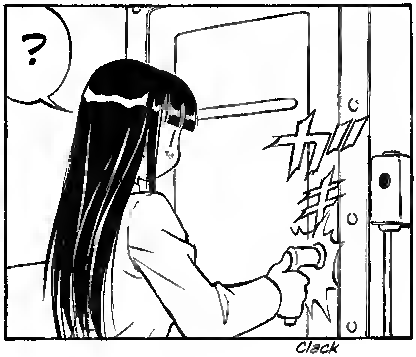

A monkey?
Maybe it snuck into the ship back in Penang.
Kii


Breeze
ひぇ ひぇ
Shiver

I've secured the culprit.
Kii
Kii


Mamiya, what's wrong?
The door won't open...
Oh, no... Let's try it together.
せーの!!
One, two! Hnngh!

Let's get out of here, XO.
Yes, let's go.


?
Clack

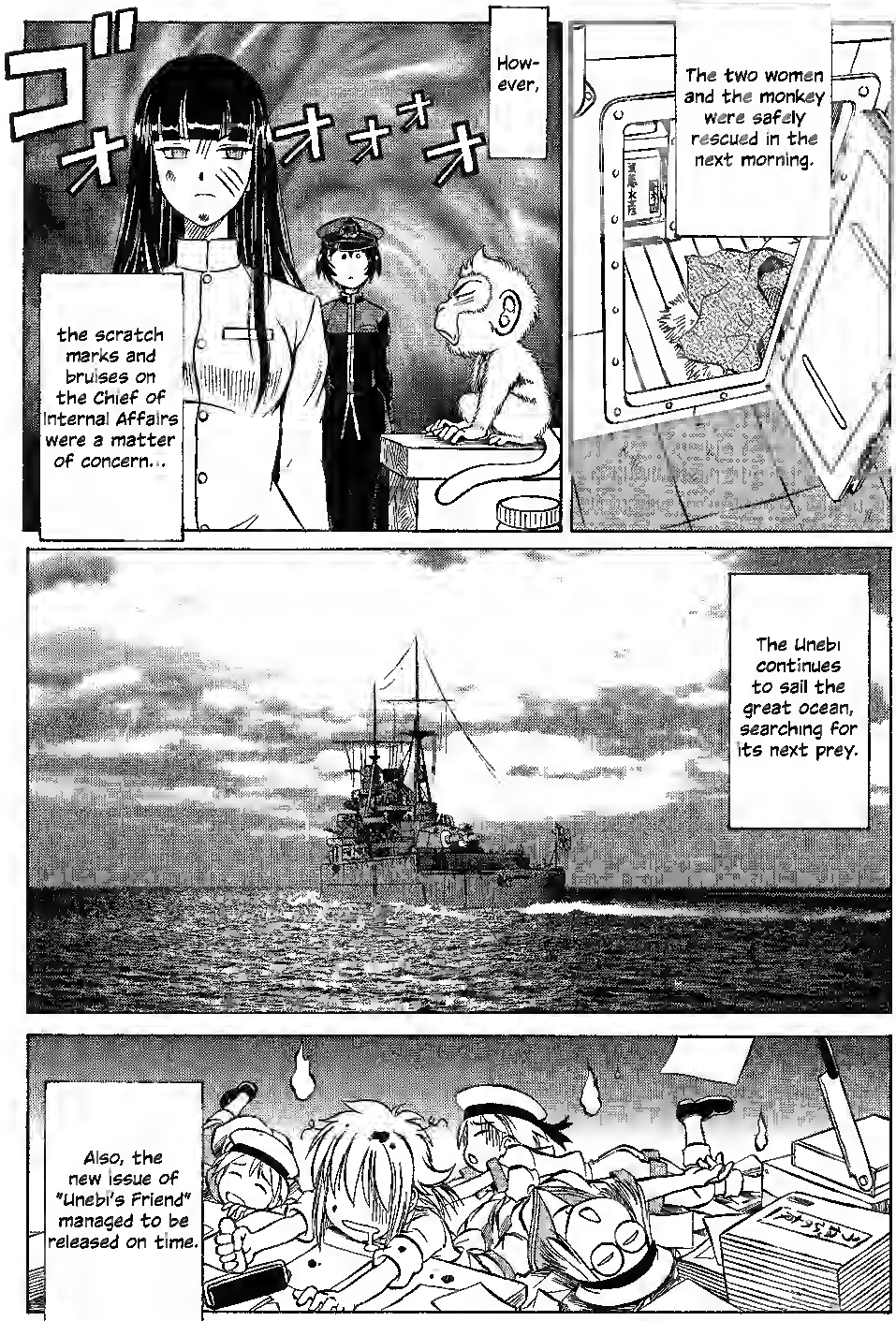
Deadline~
メカリじゃ
...not come here any time soon, I bet.
I suppose you're right
Yes...
It doesn't even budge...
Don't worry, though. Murakami and the others will probably...
Y-Yes, you're right.
T-This is pretty bad. Our wet clothes will make our body heat lower even faster.
Shiver
Tremble
Breeze~
Ah!
Tremble
Tremble

All right!
W-What are you doing, XO?!
Let's take our clothes off and warm each other up.
Thump
Come here, Mamiya.

I-Is this okay, XO?
Yup.
Come on, you get in here.
Ba-dump
N... No way.
Y-
Yes, it is.
Ehehe-
It's a little embarrassing, isn't it?
My heart can't take this...
Ba-dump

Stick
Wow~
Startle
Y-Yesss!
Mamiya, may I get a little closer?
Mamiya, you're so warm~
The XO's soft skin and slender shoulders are...
Her body heat is... Her scent is...
I'm going to... I'm going to...

Whack
Guh!
XO!
Eh?
Wh-
Whaaat?!


ゴオオオオオ
However,
the scratch marks and bruises on the Chief of Internal Affairs were a matter of concern...
The two women and the monkey were safely rescued in the next morning.
The Unebi continues to sail the great ocean, searching for its next prey.
Also, the new issue of "Unebi's Friend" managed to be released on time.

Chapter 21 - End

くろがね
黒鉄
ぷかぷか隊
か・い・だ・ん
Ghost Story

I heard this from one of our lookouts.
She was climbing the gangway on portside of the main deck late at night...
She gathered her courage to turn around and saw...
...she felt a strange presence behind her!
...and the moment she set foot on the 13th step...

...the bloody ghost of a dead sailor standing right there~
Startle
I don't know if that story is actually true, though.
Heh.
I heard the same story from my crew, so it might be true.
Thump thump thump
Gulp
Speaking of which, isn't it Cookie's turn to patrol tonight?
If you're scared, I don't mind switching with you.
Oh no, please allow me...
W-What are you talking about?! I'm totally fine!

I'm not scared at all-
Jeez, why did Chiga have to tell me that ridiculous story...
This is the gangway that was mentioned in the story...
The 13th step...
There's no such thing as ghosts, it's all lies!
Hmph!
I'm absolutely fine!

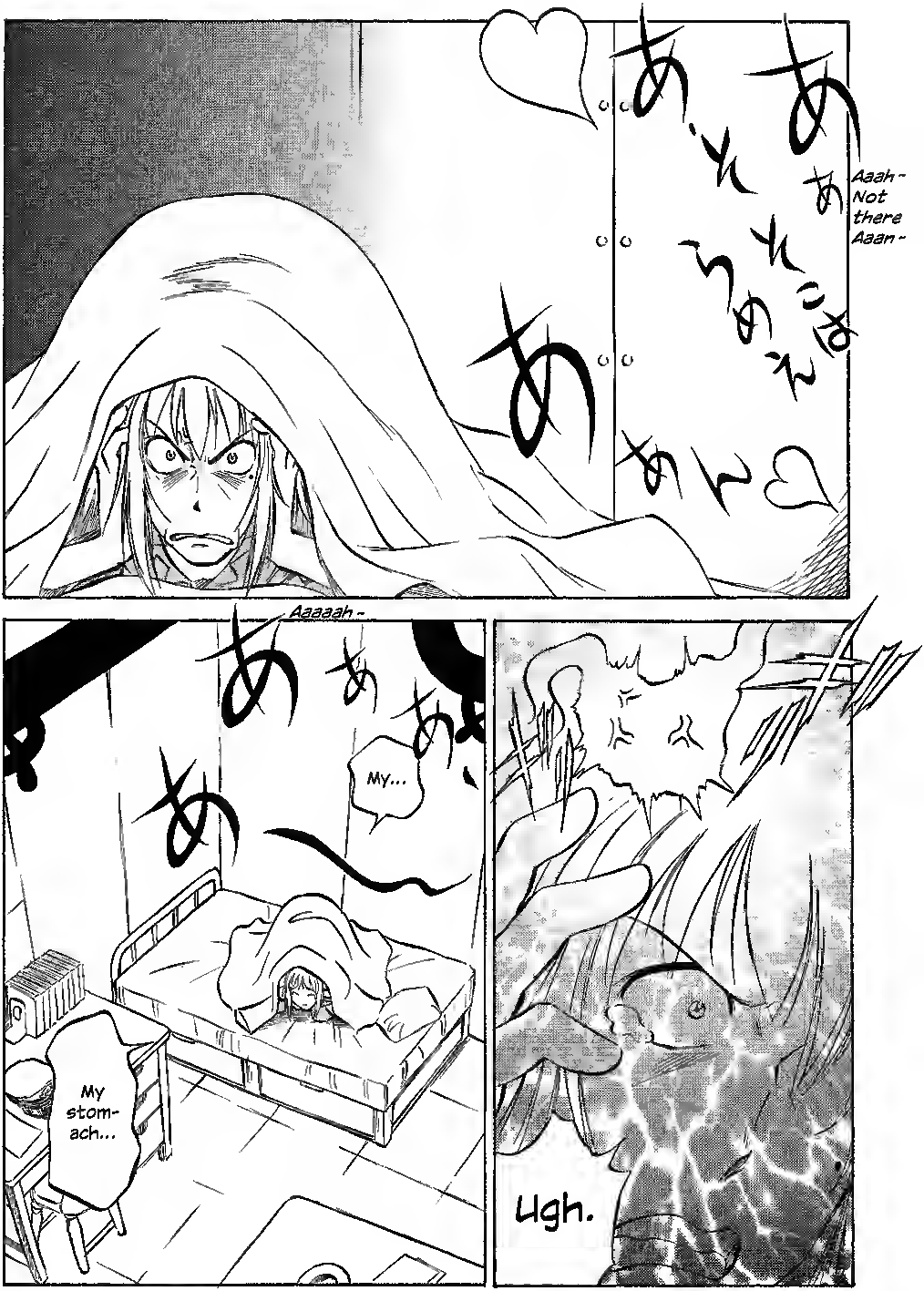
Noooooooo!
Why did she even believe that nonsense? Nobody ever died on the Unebi.
Oh dear, Cookie's just too funny.

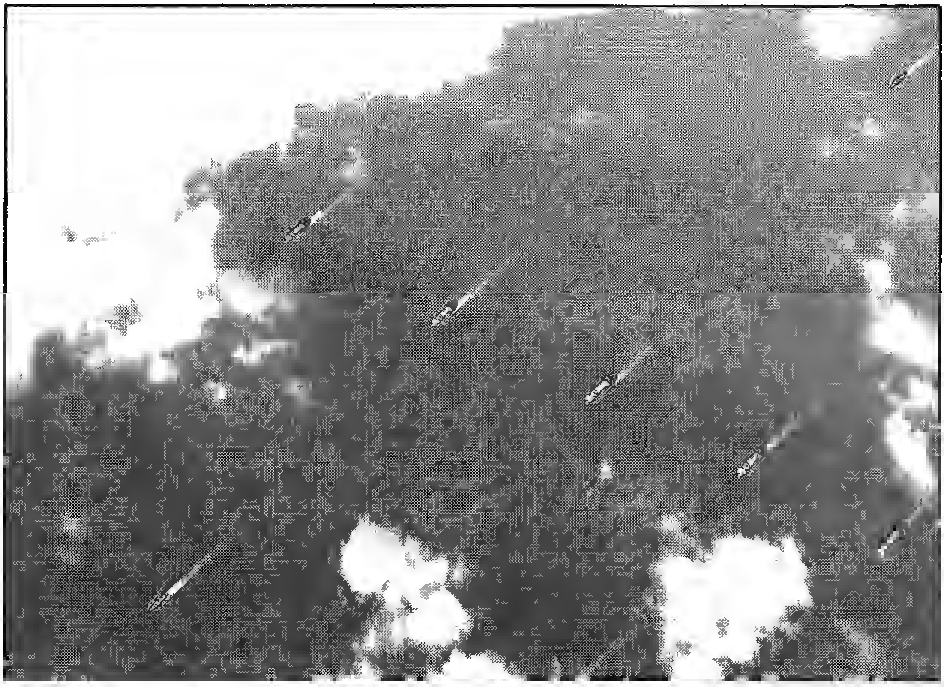
Chapter 22
The Wallaby Won't Sink (part 1)

Yeah... sorry. I haven't been able to sleep lately.
Captain, you should rest for a bit...
Wobble
Aye aye, Captain.
Take care of things around here.

How can this be... To think that someone like me...
...would have to go through something like this...
Startle
Ah...

We could assist Captain Rackham...
Enough already- My body can only take so much in a single day...
Oh...
So you're warming up to her, huh.
Well, there's nothing else to do.
I guess I'm gonna have to punish you!
Eeek!


あ
あ
あ



They say that winning glamorous battles is the path to success for a soldier, but...

...to be honest, that's nonsense! Life is too precious to risk on that!

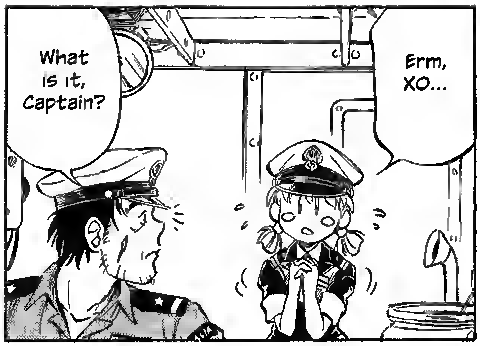
It's much better to slowly earn points by completing simple, boring missions like this one...

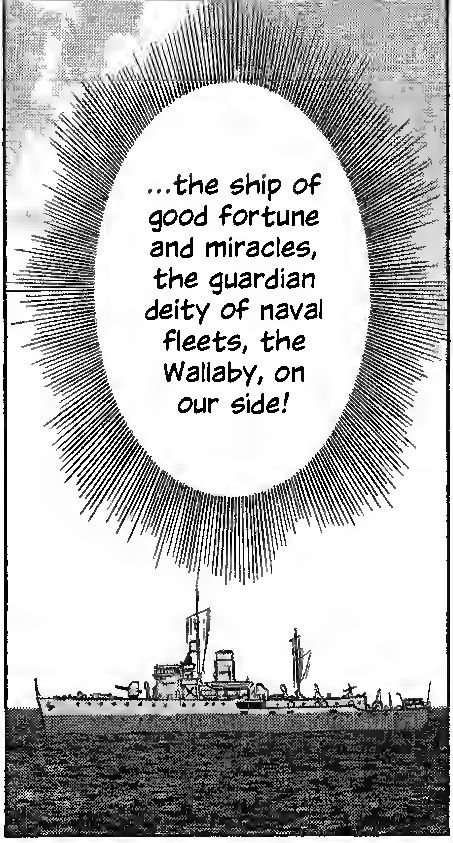
...safely!

Good, everything's fine.

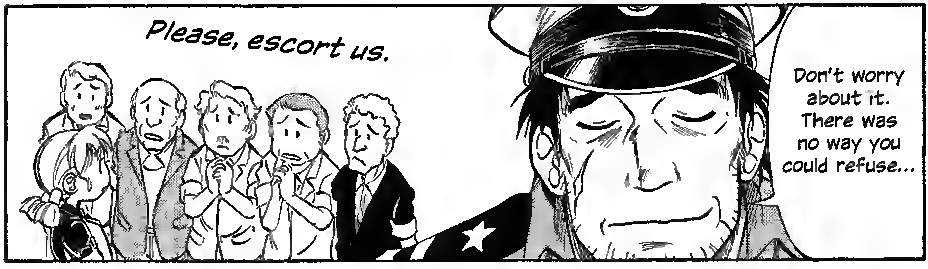
AUSTR

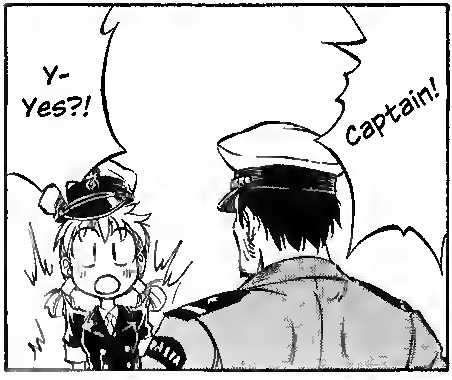
He he...
Thus, gradually making my way to becoming Admiral!
That's the most certain and safest way to do it!
AUSTRALIA
That's probably what that stupid Major is thinking right now... but he keeps taking heat from his own allies. what's so safe about that?
Why is his ship so far behind ours?! He's supposed to be our escort!
Let's just forget about that stupid Major already.
Yeah, you're right. After all, we have...


What is it, Captain?
Erm, XO...


...the ship of good fortune and miracles, the guardian deity of naval fleets, the Wallaby, on our side!

I'm sorry for accepting this mission...


Please, escort us.
Don't worry about it. There was no way you could refuse...


Y-Yes?!
Captain!

Everyone was looking forward to some time on land...
But we finally had some time off...

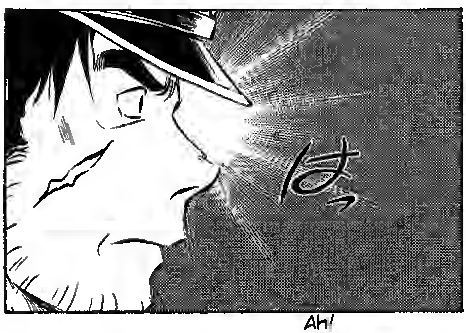
Take a good look at the faces of your subordinates.
E...
Every-one...
Yeah!
Even after all these years in the sea, it's pretty rare to meet someone like her...
Please continue to support me-

Oh, that's not true. I never win at lotteries or anything...
Although she's not aware of it herself...
A person blessed with great fortune.
AUSTRAL
The Wallaby became famous not only in Australia, but also among British and American fleets.
We've had more than 30 escort missions since the beginning of the war and suffered no damage so far.
But when that happened five times in a row, we figured it had to be more than that.
ゴォォン
It's not like I and the rest of the crew believed in her luck from the beginning.
When we were hit by a torpedo but it failed to detonate, we thought it was just a coincidence.

Chris Dampier is certainly protected by a powerful guardian angel.

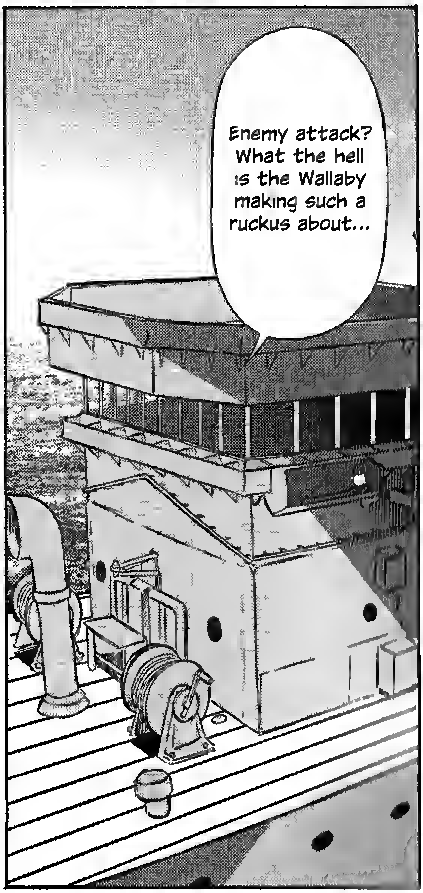
Is it bed hair...?
Um...
My hair started standing up all of a sudden...

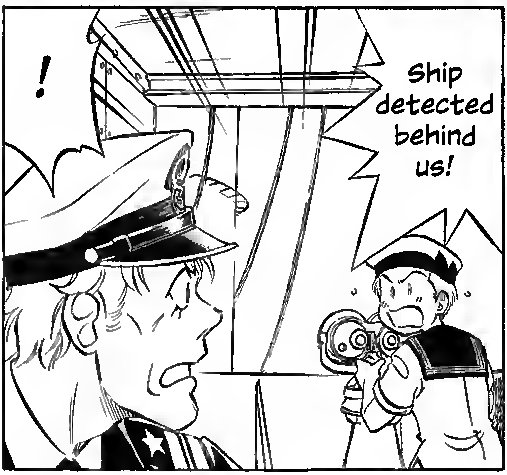
What's wrong, Captain?
Hm...


Ah!

Contact the Kangaroo and the Wallaroo!
Enemy attack possibly incoming!

What's that supposed to mean?
It seems that Captain Dampier's hair stood up...


Enemy attack? What the hell is the Wallaby making such a ruckus about...


!
Ship detected behind us!

Wa-
W-What was that?!
どおん

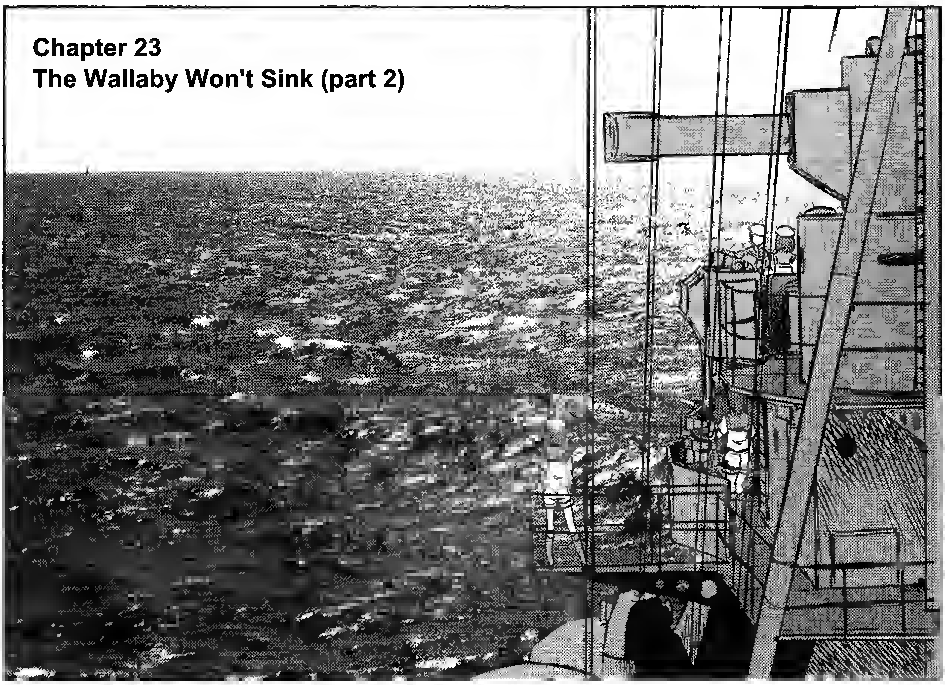
That's the famous Unebi... Why is it here...?
This is no joke! There's no way I can take them on!
The transport vessels are to move according to their own judgement!
Turn 90 degrees starboard and advance at full speed!
Whaaat?!
We'll temporarily retreat in order to assess the situation!
That bastard's chickening out!
He's deserting us!

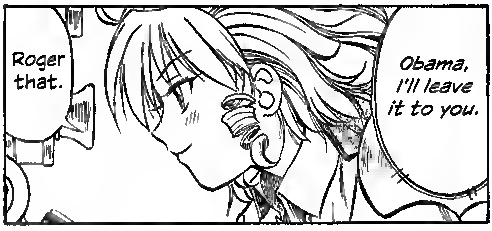
Chiga, close the distance between us and that fleet.
Oh dear, what a shameful escort ship.
あぅぁ
Roger that.
Obama, ignore the runaway escort ship and focus on the transport ships.
Everyone, calm down!
We're done for!
Eeek~

Follow the lead of the Wallaroo and advance.
We'll hold off the enemy ship!
It's the Wallaby!
The Wallaby should be able to take them on!

Chapter 22 - End

Chapter 23
The Wallaby Won't Sink (part 2)



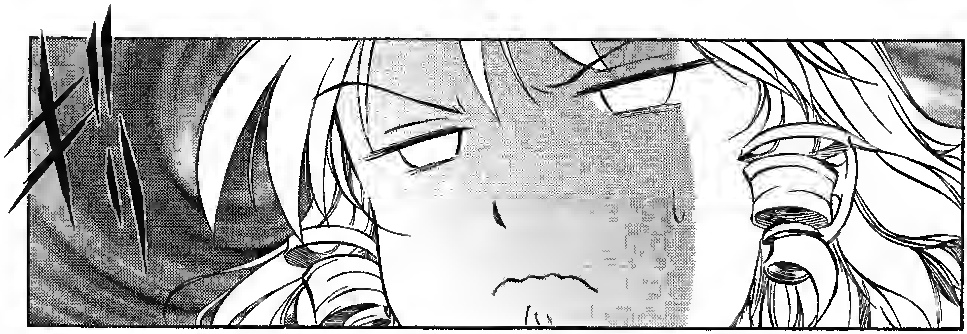


Return fire with the main cannon!
They're straddling us with the first shot?! What skill!
Whoooooosh
!
Our 12 pound cannon can't reach them!

All right.
Hm?
Kyaah!
Prepare the sub-cannon to fire!
The target is the enemy escort ship!
No damage!
Kyuu
Status report!
Obama missed.
Oh my, how unusual.

Captain!
It's okay. Keep advancing.
ドーン ドドーン
ゴー
This is bad.
We're gonna get hit.
ゴゴゴ

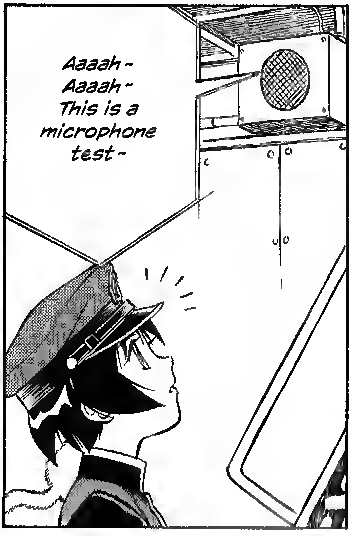
Amazing. Amazing, Captain.
It's like the enemy's fire can't possibly hit us.

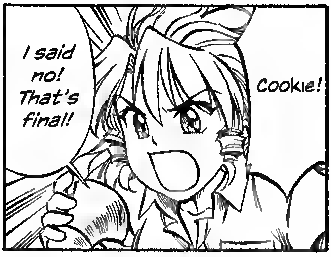


Changing our course now would cause us to lose time and allow the transport fleet to increase their distance from us.

I can't allow that.
Well? You heard her.
Chiga, point our gunwale to the enemy!

An internal broad-cast?
What is Obama trying to do...?


Aaaah~ Aaaah~ This is a microphone test~


I said no! That's final!
Cookie!

むぅ
Grrr..

Her only flaw seems to be the fact that she's a bit stubborn and inflexible.
As all of you know, our Executive Officer Kuki is very attractive, resolute, dignified and has sharp wits. She's extremely popular and idolized by everyone.
Gulp
However, if she drinks even just a little bit...
That voice... it's Gunnery Officer Obama, isn't it?
...she turns into a laid-back kissing demon! ♡
Noooo!

Mamiya.
XO.♡
Yes, XO.
Isn't it fun to watch the flowers Mamiya?
Miss Mamiya!
That reminds me, you even kissed me once.
Don't say stuff like that so nonchalantly!
Hey, Obama!
Okay
Change the next issue's featured article right away!
Clench

What's the second secret?...
Turn to port side already!
Now let's reveal Cookie's second secret!
I won't miss again!
Ready to fire!
Fire!
Whoa!

Smoke-screen de-ployed!
Starboard! Cover the fleet with our ship!
The Unebi has changed its course.
Aah! The Wallaby's gonna get hit!
Do your best, Wallaby!

What?! Is it another enemy?!
Heavy cruiser approaching at 11 o'clock.
The Kan-ga-roo
No, it's an ally from the British Navy!
The heavy cruiser Europa!
We have a transmission from that Australian minesweeper. Is seems that the Uneb! is attacking the transport fleet.
Then, why the hell is the escort minesweeper loitering all the way out here?

Turn the ship 180 degrees!
Europa, follow me!
It's here!
It's here.
My chance to look cool while bringing the reinforcements!
I'll be a hero! My promotion is certain!
Ignore it. Who does he think he is, getting carried away like that?
That's what he said...
So we finally get to fight the Unebi.
All hands, battle stations!
Advance at full speed!

Hey, I told you not to come to the bridge without my permission!
Let's see what you can do. ♡
Ugh!
My...
My stom-ach...

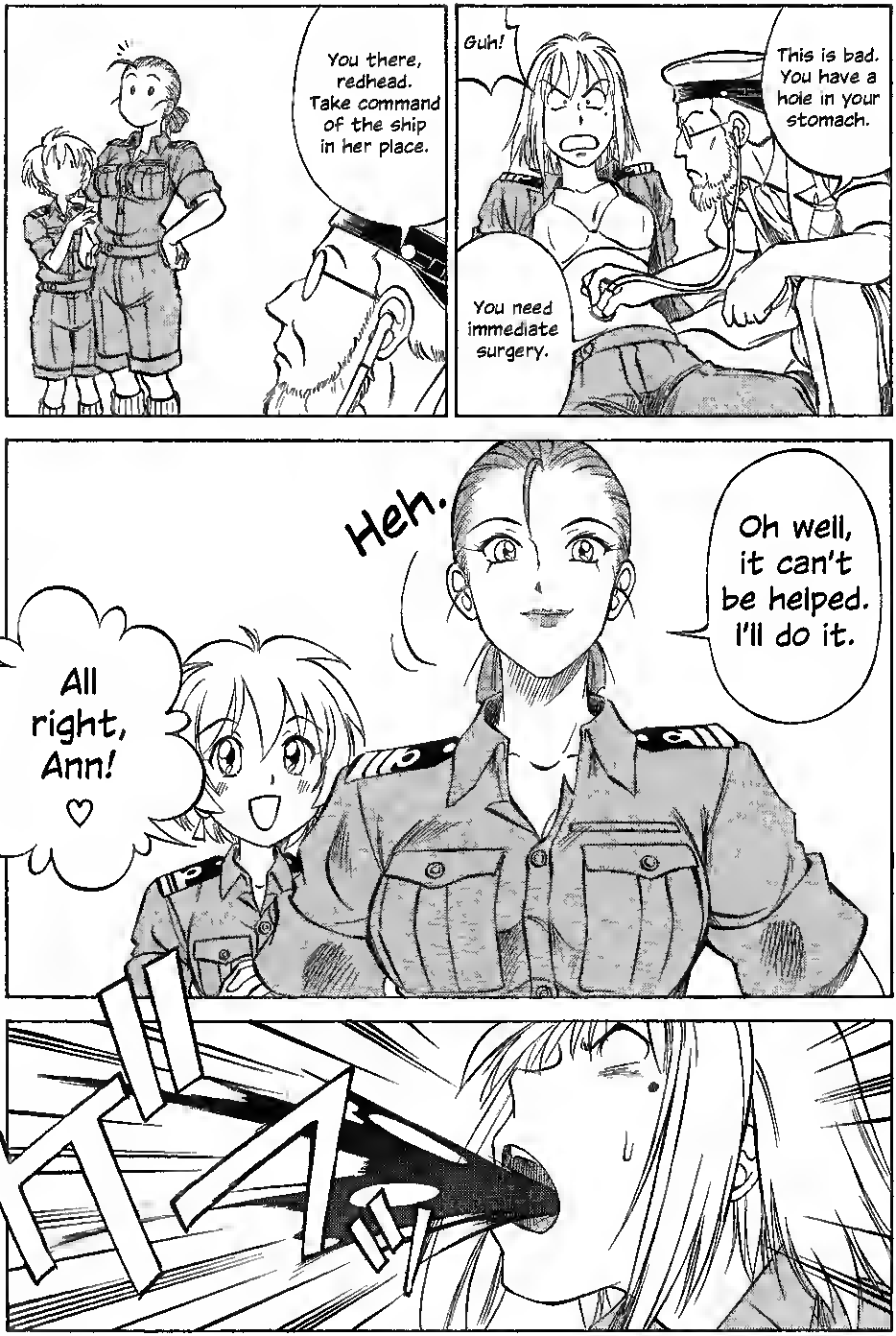
!
Captain Rackham!
Calm down, XO. I'm fine.
Eeek~ Captain Rackham!
Medic! Get a medic in here!

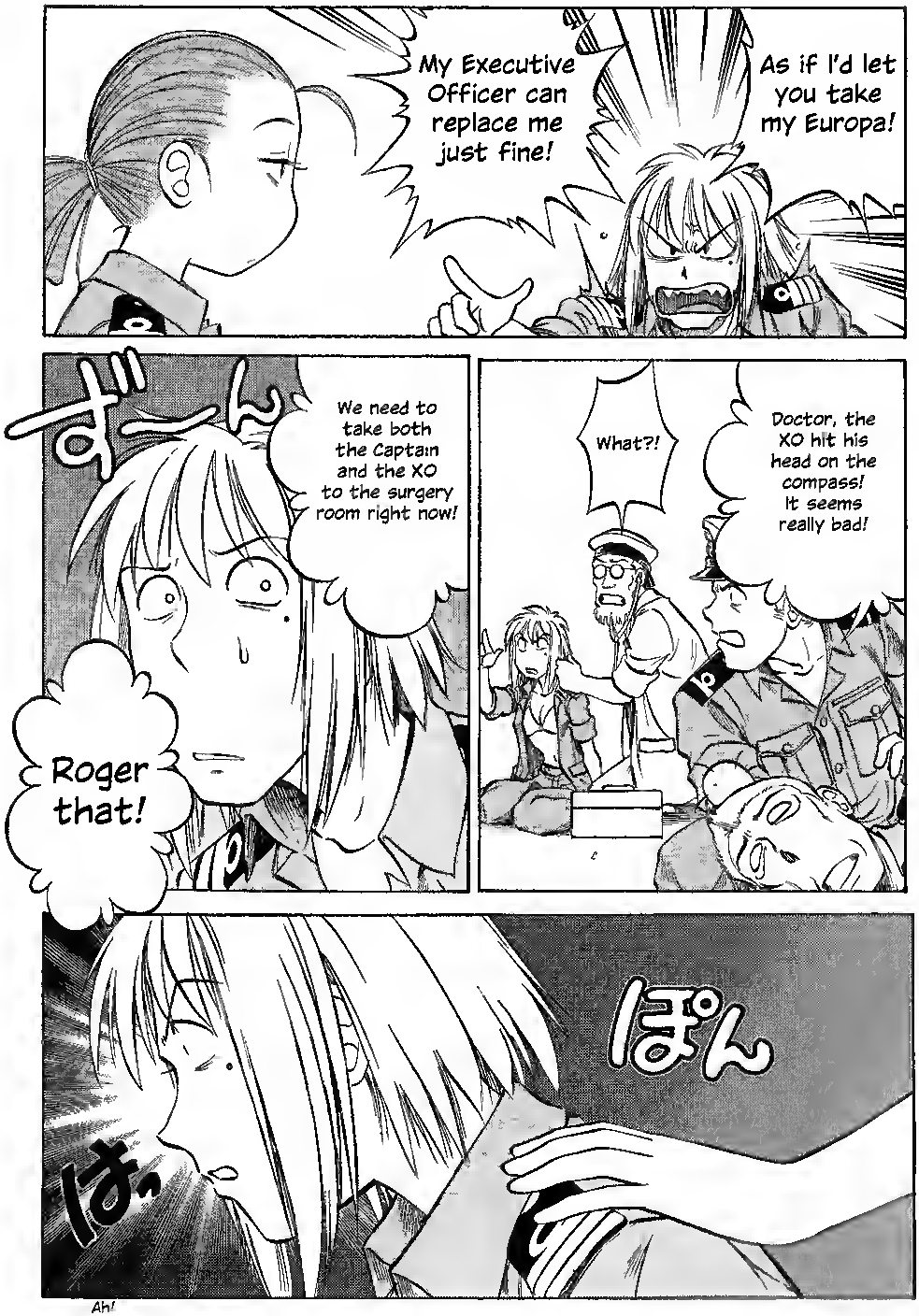
You're so noisy. What is it?
W-We have a prob-lem!
どぉぉぉん
The Europa is...
...charging right at us!
Wh-Whaaat?!

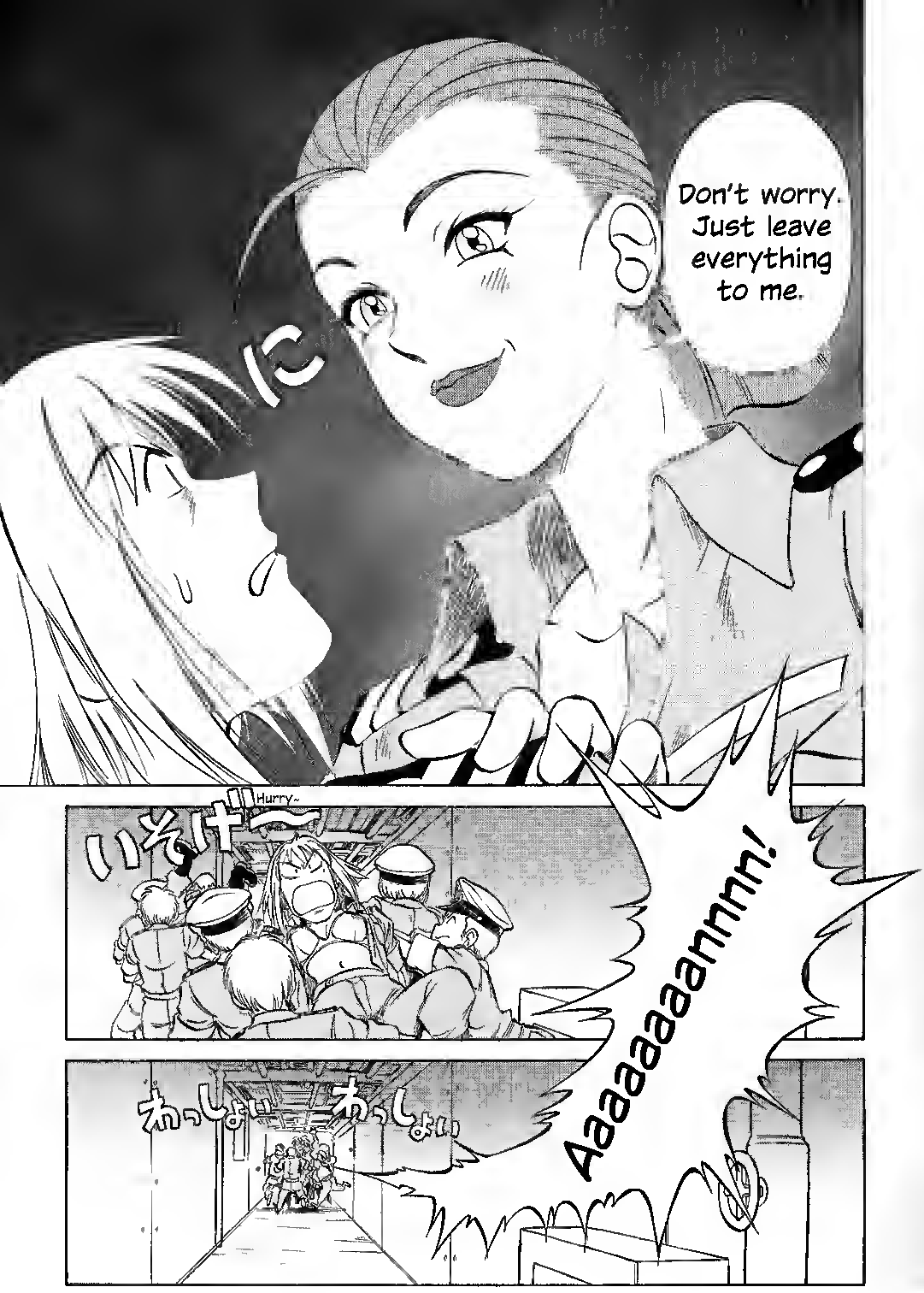
Chapter 23 - End

Chapter 24
The Wallaby Won't Sink (part 3)

Gasp
Gasp
ゴゥ
ゴゥ
Wait up, you bastards!
Guh.
Yeah. Thanks, Ann.
Are you okay, Mary?
The chief medical officer is here.
Whaat?!
We crashed into an allied ship.
W-What was that impact just now?
Wheeze wheeze


You there, redhead. Take command of the ship in her place.
Guh!
This is bad. You have a hole in your stomach.
You need immediate surgery.
Heh.
Oh well, it can't be helped. I'll do it.
All right, Ann! ♡
HA


My Executive Officer can replace me just fine!
As if I'd let you take my Europa!
We need to take both the Captain and the XO to the surgery room right now!
Roger that!
What?!
Doctor, the XO hit his head on the compass! It seems really bad!
ぽん
Ah!


Don't worry. Just leave everything to me.
いそげー
Hurry~
わっしょい
わっしょい
Aaaaaaannnn!

Fire!
Fire!
Keep firing until our gun barrels burn up!

Watch out, Captain!
Kyah!
H-How soft.
And surprisingly big...
N-No problem.
Thank you, XO.

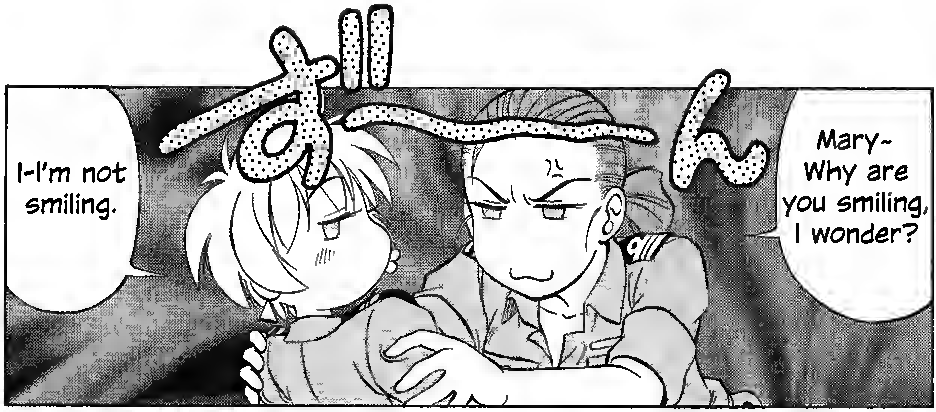
They hit us.
Yeah...
Find that shell!
Yes, sir!
It's not going to blow up, is it?
しゅう…
We found the shell. It sank right into the XO's bed.
しゅう
It looks like it failed to detonate.
It failed?!

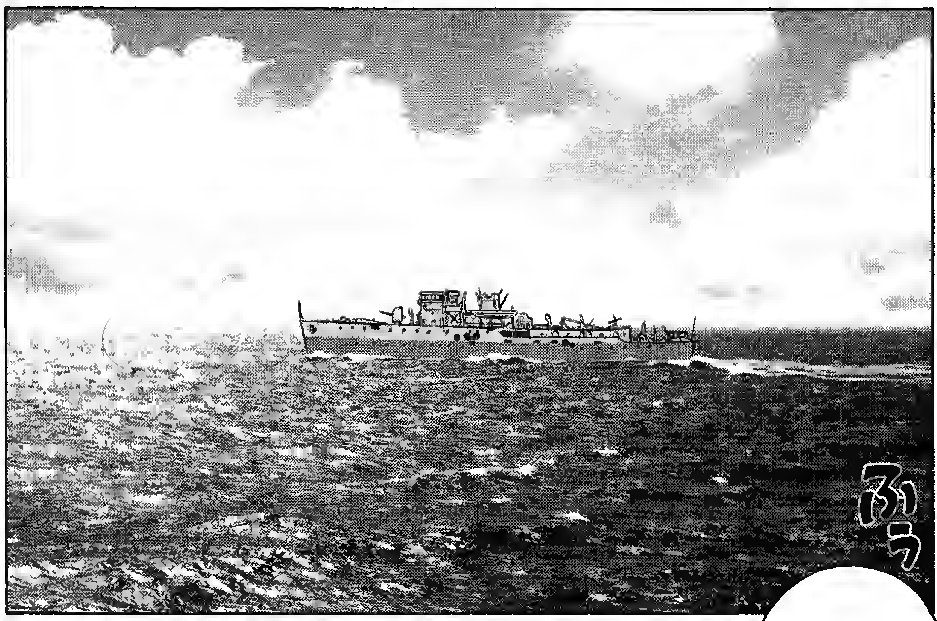
Also, that hole...
...is right where the Captain was standing before!
Damage to the chimney and mast!
Heh.
He he.
Ha ha ha!
はっはっはっ
Our Captain is amazing, after all!
XO?

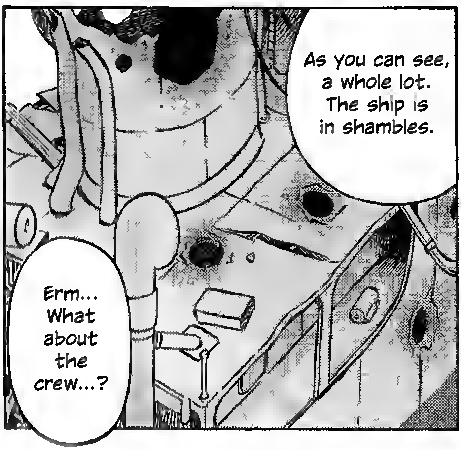
Yeah!
Keep firing as much as you want!
It won't be enough to sink the Wallaby!
I know, Cookie! I'll sink that little boat in just a minute!
Obama...
Damn it! What's going on?!
I'm sure I hit them at least five times!
Huh?!
No, you won't. We're out of time.

Grrr
Now, let's have some fun, maiden of the Unebi.
There are enemy reinforcements approaching from behind.
It's a heavy cruiser.
We can't make such a gamble. Our mission is to disrupt commerce. We need to be able to keep sailing safely.
What do you want to do? I think we can win if we just take them head on.
Ahem.
Shiver

Pshh
Crack
we're retreating from this area.
Advance at full speed!
Go after them! Don't let them get away!
The Unebi is accelerating and opening distance from us!
Kuh.
That stinking mine-sweeper.
The ship's bow was deformed from the shock earlier. We can't go any faster.
Huh?
We're already going as fast as we can!


I-I'm not smiling.
Mary~ Why are you smiling, I wonder?

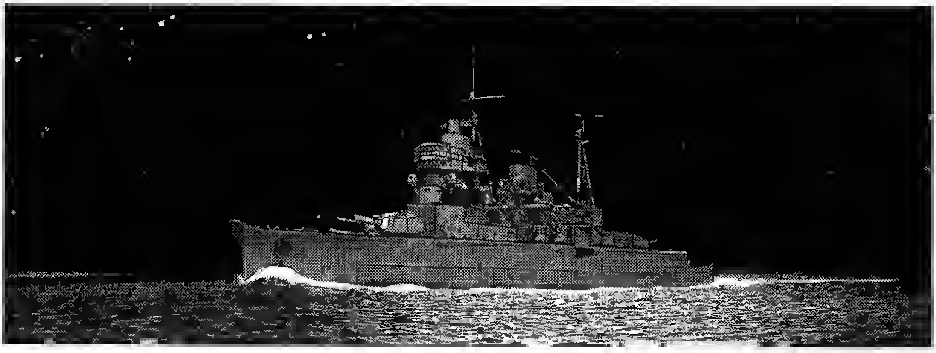

ふう
Phew.


As you can see, a whole lot. The ship is in shambles.
Erm... What about the crew...?

XO... How much damage did the Wallaby take?
Looks like it's finally over.
USN

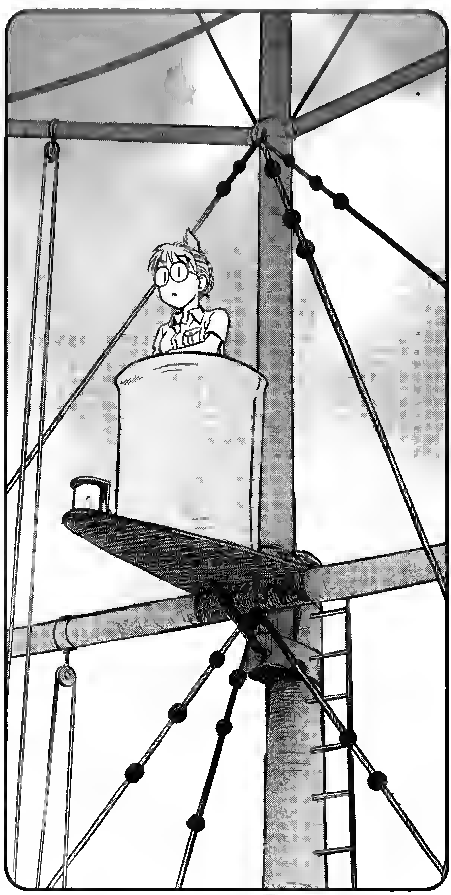
I see.
Thank you, XO.
Eight people with minor injuries.
Everyone is just fine.
Hm?
XO~ What do I do with this?
AUSTRALIA
Okay...
Y-You dumbass! Don't bring that thing in here! Get rid of it right now!
どぼん

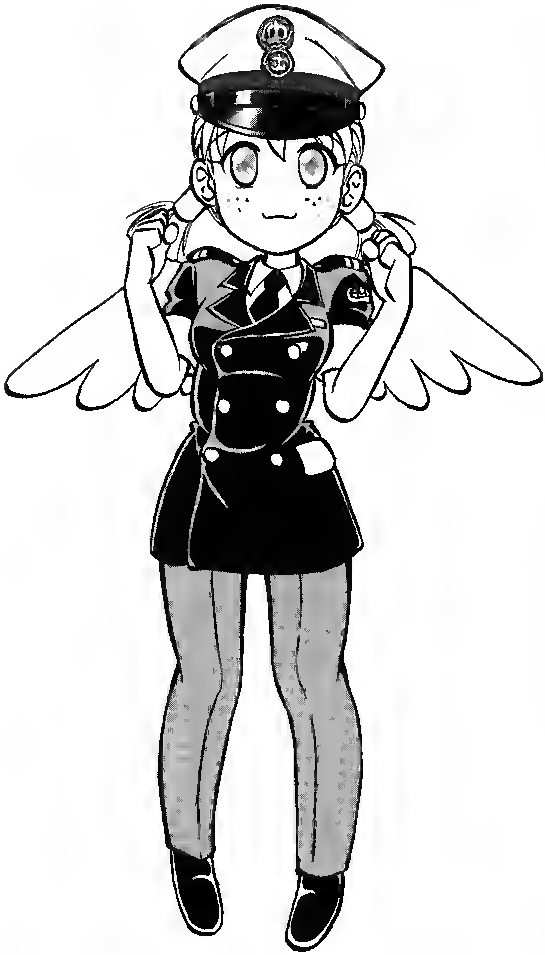
XO, I can see the fleet.
Phew.
ゴロン
オオオオ
ワラビーだ ワラビーが帰ったぞ
The wounded Wallaby is met with jubilation...
It's the Wallaby! The Wallaby came back!



XO, I'll join you.
Excited
Thump
Thump
Sometimes you just have a bad day, Obama.
I'm tellin' you, I'd totally have sunk them with just one more shot!
Mamiya... how pitiful.
Sorry, Mamiya. I'm gonna stay for the night shift.
Can't leave Obama alone
Booze

Chapter 24 - End





Captain Chris Dampier

Captain of the Australian Navy minesweeper Wallaby. A kind and fluffy type, she feels specially responsible for her crew and the transport fleet she's tasked with escorting. Possessing incredibly good luck, she was able to withstand the overwhelming power of the Unobi. Her crew refers to her as a "goddess" or a "real angel". Has deceptively large breasts.

くろがね
黒鉄
ぷかぷか隊
つるぎ
剣の舞姫
The Sword Dancer
Ha ha ha
は、は、は、
You're such a worrywart, Navigator.
Captain, isn't it dangerous to accommodate those German soldiers in our ship? Even though they surrendered...
Grin
に、

We're taking this ship for the German Navy!
Nobody move!
Blam
Blam
Kuh!
Hey, I said don't move.

Schwing
Blam
D-
Damn
you!
Blam
Guh!

Y... Yeah...
Are you okay, Navigation Officer Rackham?
If I'm not mistaken, this girl is part of Executive Officer Ann's crew...
Thump
Her body is so small and delicate, yet she's so strong...
Thump
Ann... How I wish you'd just drop dead...
Good job, Mary. I handled things on this side.
Ann~ I took care of everyone over here~

Chapter 25
Sha, the Red Comet
Maybe she's looking out for them?
Well, we haven't seen those transport ships at all since then...
Jeez, what's up with that.
Obama's still hung up on that battle...
?
!

Enemy attack!
Prepare for anti-air combat!
いそげー
いそげー
Hurry up~
Hurry up~

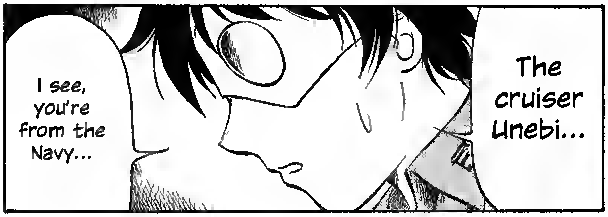
That's...
...an Army Type-1 Fighter!
ズゴーン
And it's bright red!
Uwah... That's some bad taste.
Fire!
Eh?! Wait just a sec-
ドド

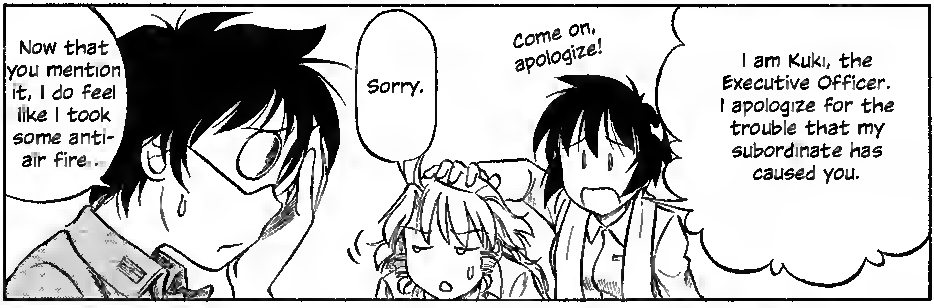
ヘロ
ヘロ
ヘロ
ドン
ドン
ドン
Heh
ヨル
All right. ♡
ビク
Eeek~
Clench
Oh, really
That's someone from the army
Lower a life boat!
Rescue the pilot right now!
Hm?
Whawhawha what the hell are you doing?!

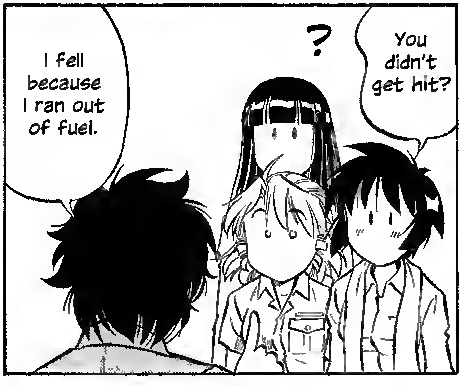
Kuh!
That fighter is sinking quickly, isn't it...
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
キーン
ゴボボボ

Ah!
は,
W-Where am I?!
This is the cruiser Unebi.

Ugh...


The cruiser Unebi...
I see, you're from the Navy...


I am Kuki, the Executive Officer. I apologize for the trouble that my subordinate has caused you.
Come on, apologize!
Sorry.
Now that you mention it, I do feel like I took some anti-air fire...

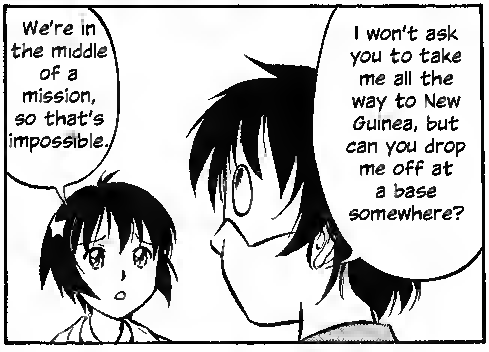

You didn't get hit?
?
I fell because I ran out of fuel.

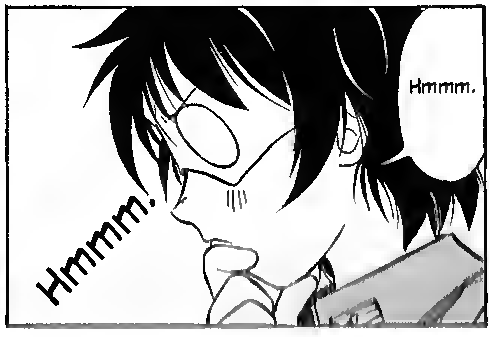
Heh
Well, there's no need to worry about it.
I didn't get hit, so it's fine.

Uwah... that's totally in the opposite direction...
Ha ha ha
We left Singapore and were headed to New Guinea, but I got separated from my squad within the clouds. When I realized it, I was surrounded by the ocean.
Anyway, thank you for rescuing me.
I'm the commander of the Red Comet Squad of the Army's Flying Corps, Lt. Commander Sha.
The Army's Flying Corps' Red Comet Squad...
If I'm not mistaken, it's that aerobatic team formed in Taiwan that entertained men and women of all ages, soldiers and civilians alike, with their performance.

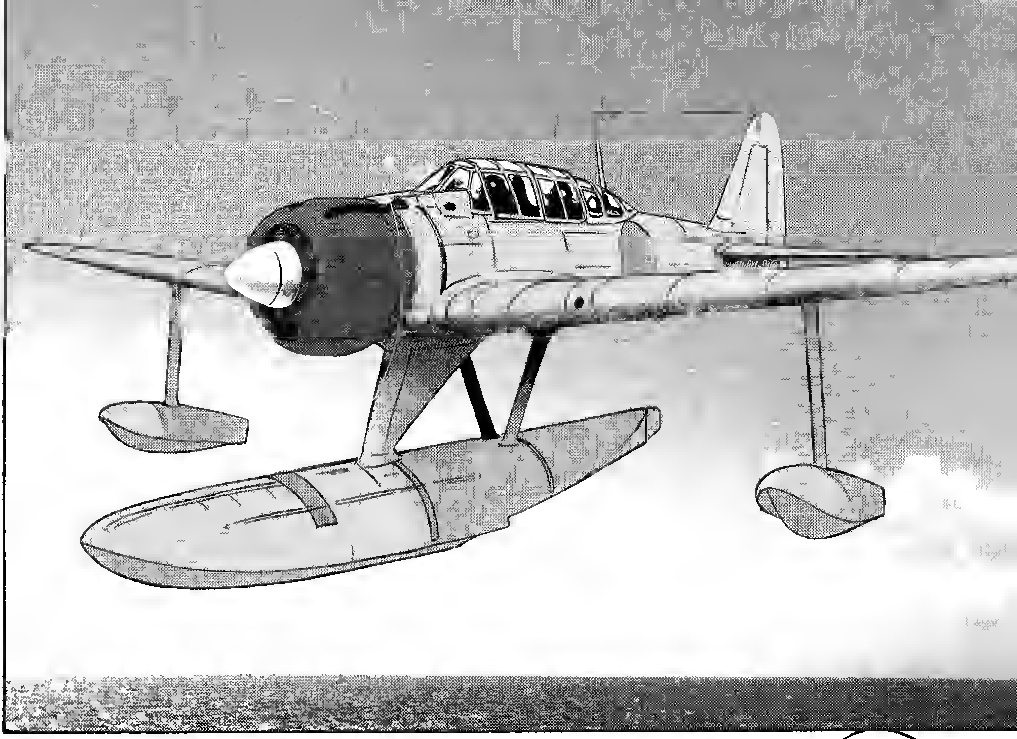
In particular, the commander's magnificent performance was so popular that soldiers in the front lines who got to watch it had their morale triplicated!
She's popularly known as Sha, the Red Comet!

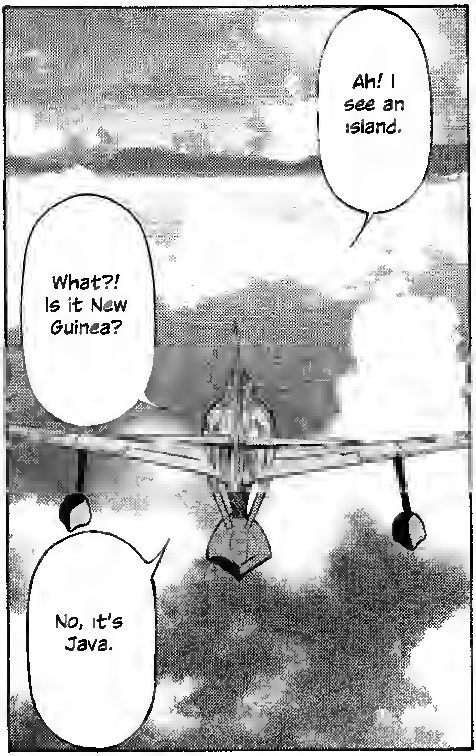
Since this is a cruiser, you must have a seaplane on board.
I'd like to borrow it.


We're in the middle of a mission, so that's impossible.
I won't ask you to take me all the way to New Guinea, but can you drop me off at a base somewhere?

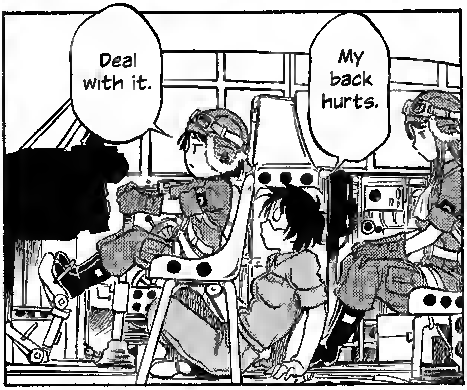

Hmmm.
Hmmm.

There's just no way.
We're just lending it out, not giving it away.
Definitely no way.
No way.
Look, she's saying stuff like that!
Is it okay if I paint it red?
I won't fly with anyone other than Kiku. Besides, the front seat is adjusted to match Kiku's height, so I don't think you'll fit in it, anyway.
You there, lanky girl. You're a good navigator, right? I'll have you join me on the back seat.
Enough already. I have an idea.
...
no sense of direction
In that case, the shorty can take the front seat and I'll go in the back
Grrr




Ah! I see an island.
What?! Is it New Guinea?
No, it's Java.

Lt. Commander Sha, are you okay?
Well...


My back hurts.
Deal with it.

ドドド

!
My raised pedal...!
Eeh?!
Leave the rudder to me!
Kuh!
Now, show me the skill of a Navy pilot!

Amazing.
She's handling the rudder perfectly!
Lt. Commander,
let's do "that"!
I see. "That", huh?

The Left Hineri-komi!
カ
カ
カ

We did it!

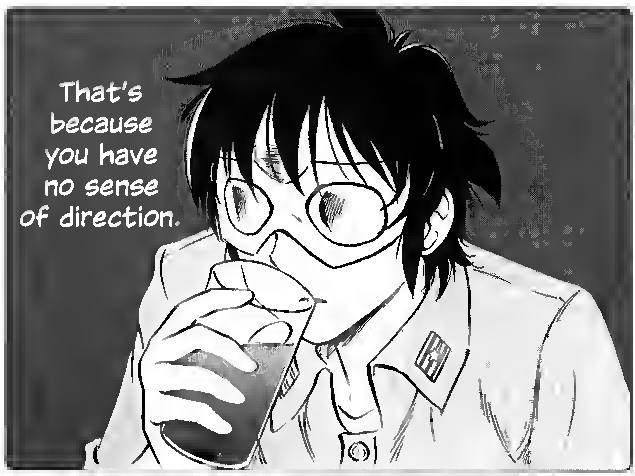
If we keep going that way, we'll end up in Australia.

Aw, that was nothing.
Not bad, shorty.

Looks like the mood got lively in here...

Lt. Commander Sha got on a private boat in Java and crossed over to New Guinea, where she safely rejoined her squad.
In one month they visited seven bases, displaying their magnificent aerobatics.
How about getting into performance aerobatics once we leave the military, Ah-chan?
Sounds good.

Chapter 25 - End


That's because you have no sense of direction.

Comm Officer Kushiku

As the Communications Officer of the Unabi, she's in charge of managing the ship's wireless messages and codes, as well as intercepting and decoding enemy transmissions. She constantly listens for enemy telegraph signals and is a master at cracking them. She doesn't communicate much with the other crew members, but seems to admire Executive Officer Kuki, who often tries talking to her. She's the younger sister of Chief Medical Officer Mukai.

くろがね
黒鉄
ぷかぷか隊
がんばれ内務長
Aaah~ Lady Mamiya...
She's so gallant~
I'll go report to the XO.
Kya~
きゃ
ポッ
Good.
There are no problems with the electrical cables.
ピシッ

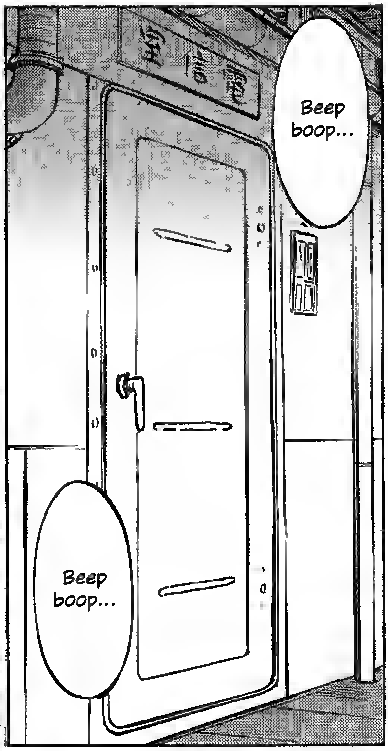
Thump
I should be used to this already.
The same stairs as always...
Thump
I wonder why...
Executive Officer
副長
...my chest pounds so much.
No... I mean, it's my job.
Thanks for your help as always, Mamiya.

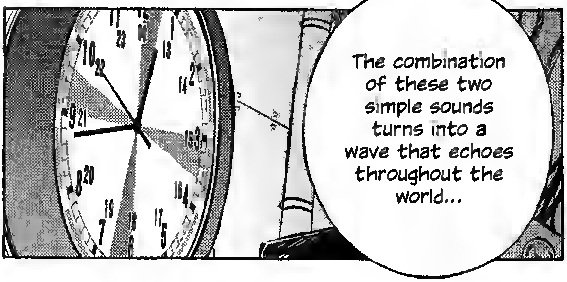
In that case, let me give the serious Mamiya a reward.♡
Ah, wait!
Stop right there, Nyoro-kichi!
Kii...

Ah, Mamiya.
Thanks for catching it.
Nyoro-kichi really hates baths...
This surpasses...
...my wildest dreams~
きゃ
Mamiya, get ahold of yourself!

Chapter 26
The Comm Officer and the Doctor (part 1)

Short tone,
long tone...

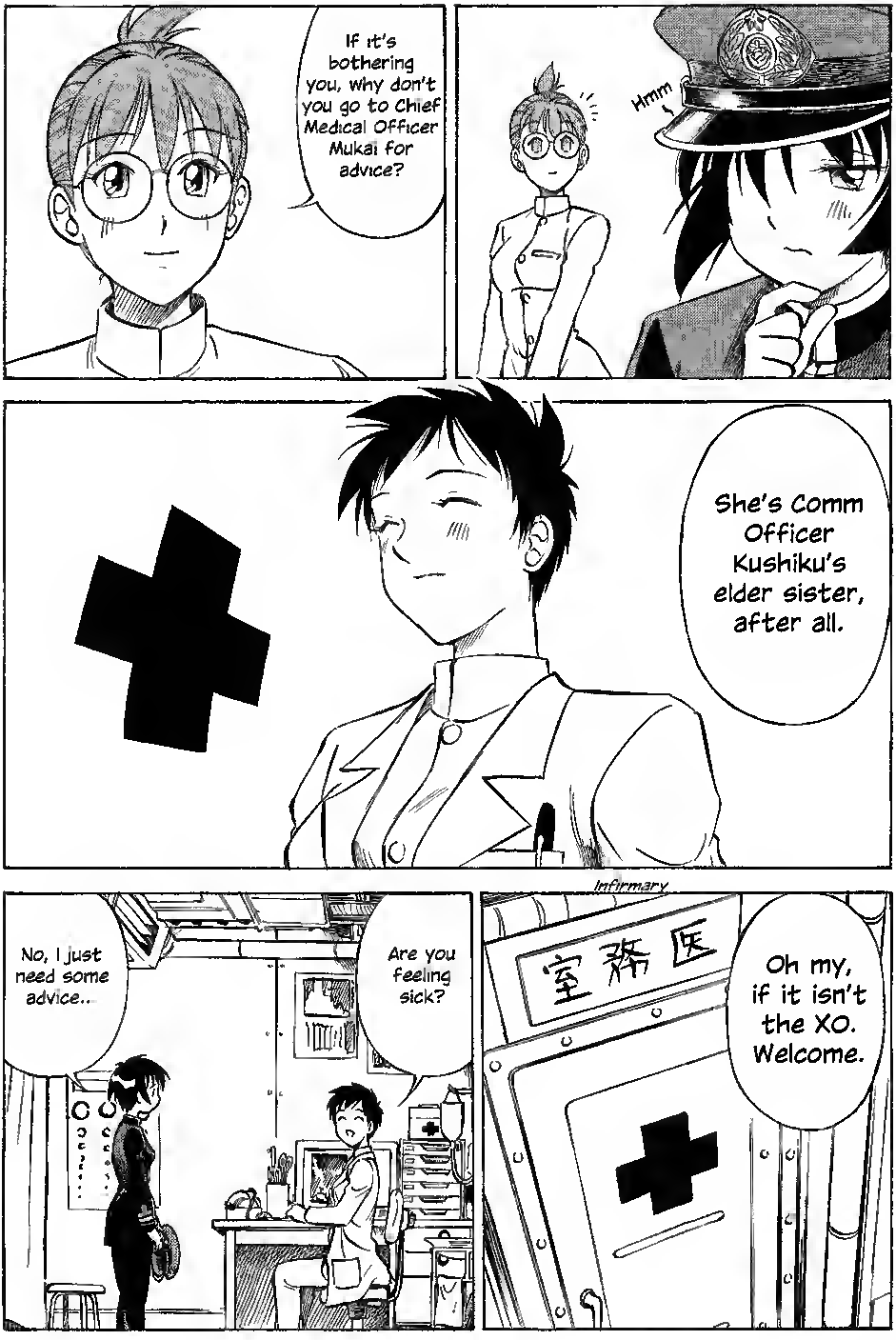

Beep boop...
Beep boop...


The combination of these two simple sounds turns into a wave that echoes throughout the world...

This may be a small room enclosed in steel, but it's definitely connected to the whole world.
Knock
Knock
Comm Officer Kushiku, do you have a moment?
カリ
チャ
Ah.

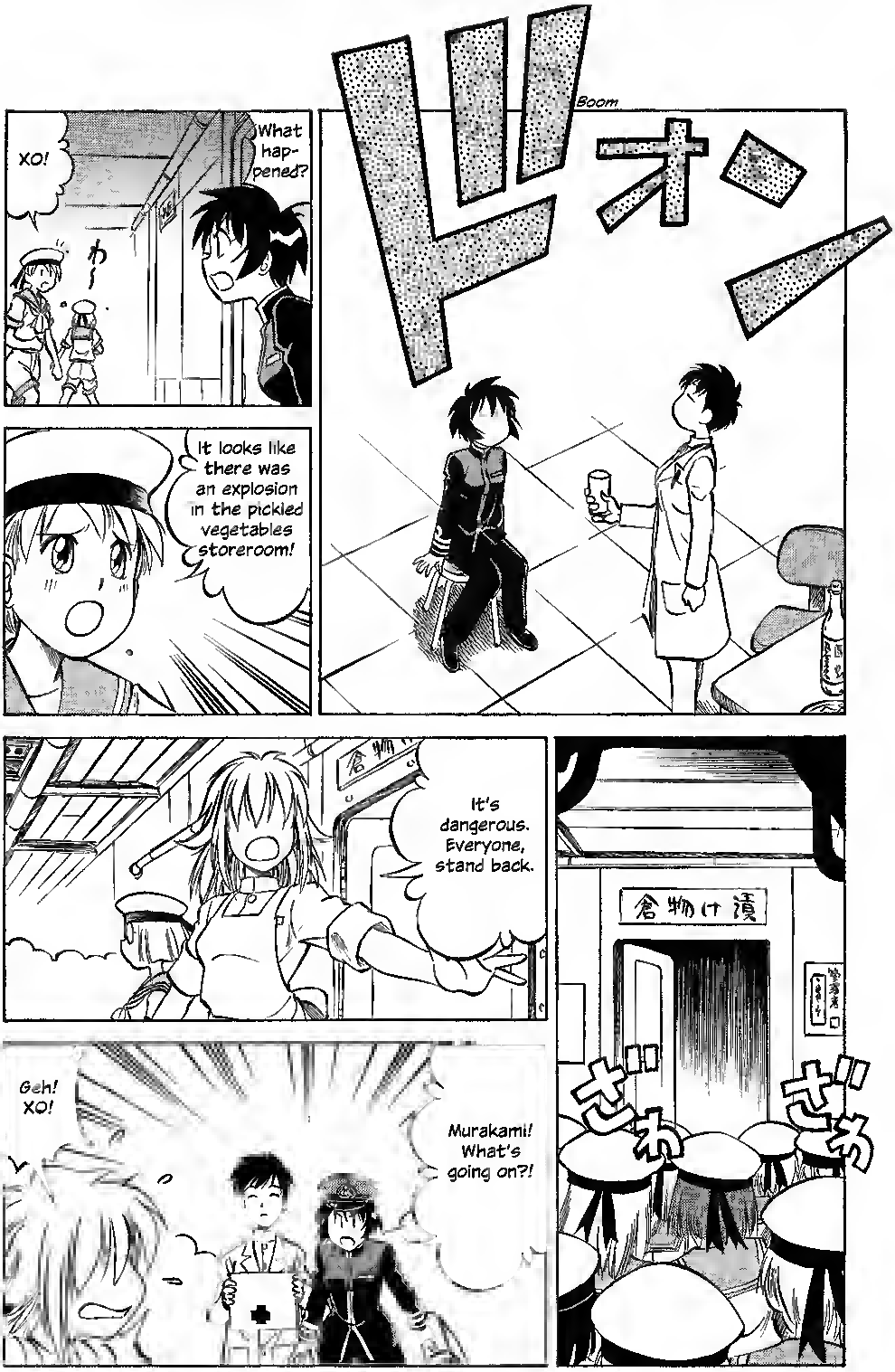
Hmm.
As usual, she won't look at me...
I was just wondering if maybe you've gotten any good info.
What is it, XO?
Is this the enemy's transport ship's...?!
!
ピラ
I only have some plain text, but I believe it's from a small civilian ship, probably a fishing boat. That's a telegram to their home port. The red marks are enemy ships, the blue marks are from neutral countries. I believe the 15th red one is a rather large ship. Also, it seems that they're planning to stop in Perth in three days. Their chief engineer is apologizing for not being able to make it in time for his sister's birthday or something.

Thanks for the info. Sorry if I got in your way.
パタン
Hm? Did something happen?
Welcome back, Cookie.
Phew...
She's always confined in that transmission room, so I barely remember her face...
It's amazing that you can have a conversation with her. I've never even heard her voice.
She won't look at me and her voice is so low I can barely hear it...
I think Kushiku might hate me...


If it's bothering you, why don't you go to Chief Medical Officer Mukai for advice?
Hmm
She's Comm Officer Kushiku's elder sister, after all.
Infirmary
室務医
Oh my, if it isn't the XO. Welcome.
Are you feeling sick?
No, I just need some advice..

I see.
This is about Shiori...
Bang
どん
In that case, let's talk over a drink.
That girl has always had trouble talking to people. At school she was always alone, never having any friends.
She justified herself by saying that "being alone is easier".
That's just how she is, it's not like she dislikes you or anything. Don't let it get to you.
But...
Even at home, she just cooped herself up in her room and kept listening to the radio.

Yes.
I wish she'd open her heart a bit more.
You think she can't go on like this?
Giggle
In that case, just force a kiss on her or something.
Kyah
How rude. I'm totally sober, see? My hands aren't trembling at all!
Dr. Mukai, are you drunk?
Even that silent character Mamiya is totally mad about you, so I believe your kiss has some medical properties ..
Kya
Kya


XO!
What happened?
わー
レオン
Boom
It looks like there was an explosion in the pickled vegetables storeroom!
It's dangerous. Everyone, stand back.
倉物仕漬
Geh! XO!
Murakami! What's going on?!
さわ
さわ

Pickled vegetables?
That's right, pickled vegetables!
Fortunately, nobody got hurt!
ポ～ン
Some of the vegetables fermented a bit too quickly and blew the lid off a large barrel!
Glance
ちら
Eh? But-
I'll submit a written report later.
XO, let's leave this to the Chief Accountant.
Phew...

How could you let an explosion happen?!
I'm sorry.
I'll follow the instructions thoroughly from now on.
It seems that Cookie saw it.
No problem there. We managed to fool her.
No way.
If she found us out, she would crush the operation for sure.
But maybe we should take this opportunity to have her join us.

Mamiya's loyalty to Cookie is the real deal.
It wouldn't work.
It would be helpful to have more people.
How about Mamiya?
All right.
Recruiting more people would increase the risk of being found out. Give it up.
In that case, I have an idea.
By the way, we need to move out of the pickled vegetables storeroom. How about the ammunition storage?
I'm gonna have to reject that.

Exactly...
A private room whose owner hardly ever comes in, huh?
I see.
All hail Unebi!

Sorry for making you join me on patrol, Mamiya.
Oh, not at all. I'm happy to help you, XO.

Who's there?!
Well, I'm also on patrol...
What are you doing here, Obama?
Oh!
Let me through.
What, is there something weird about that?
Sparkle
On patrol? You...?

No, it's nothing.
XO, is there a problem?
ピッ

Chapter 26 - End

Chapter 27
The Comm Officer and the Doctor (part 2)
Ah!
Sorry, Chiga.
...Hey, Cookie. Are you listening?
If we go about this far south and release a recon unit, I think our chances of capturing ships on their way to Australia would increase...
No, it's nothing.
Are you worried about something?

I'm beat...
I can't focus because the event from last night is still bugging me.
Sigh
Is that...
...Kushiku?
!
H... How odd.
To see her out of the transmission room and walking around on her own...

Hmm?
Hm?
Could it be?
Th... This is...
She's lost
She's...
...lost?!

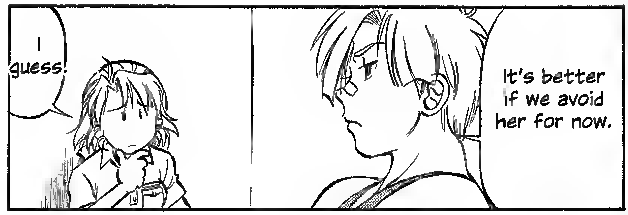
?
I
Kushiku~
...
Hmm...
Who's that person?
Tap
Tap tap
You need to loosen up and just talk to people.
?
How come your own crewmates don't even know your face?

Morse code...
へなーへなー
Tap
Tap
Infirmary
where
Tap
Taap
Tap
Come on then, let's go!
Aw, jeez! It's the infirmary, right? That's where you want to go?
...

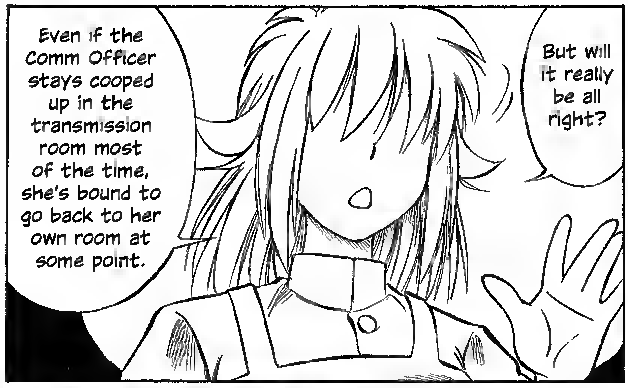
What's up?
Big sis...
I think I might be sick.
Oh, my. It's amazing that you managed to get here on your own, Shiori.
Actually, the XO brought me.
You mean like, you have a stomach ache?
Whenever I talk to the XO, I get goose bumps.
ふる ふる

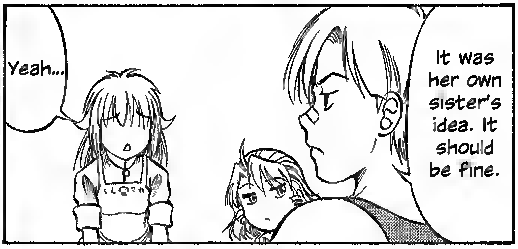
Th-
This is...
The place where the XO grabbed me before is still nice and warm.
It's like her hand is still there.
XO, you're such a lady-killer!
Erm...
What should I do, big sis?
Hm?
Sigh
To think that I even suspected that docile Kushiku... There's something wrong with me...

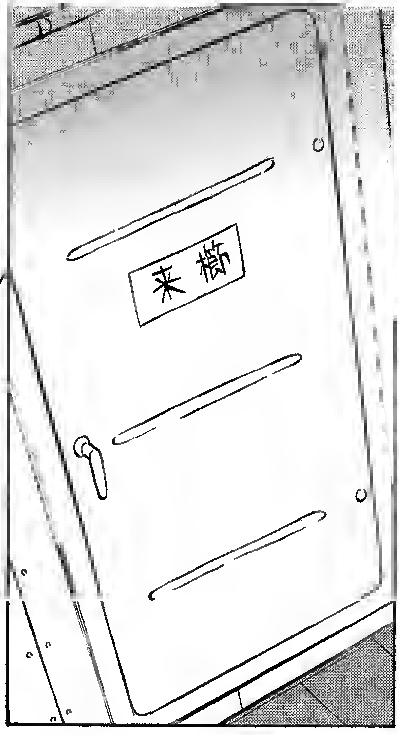
すぅ
T-That combination of people...
Twitch
こそ
Suspi-cious!
What happened after that, gunner?
I told you, it was fine. I managed to fool her.
Don't let your guard down, though. She may be dense regarding matters of love, but...
...when it comes to stuff like this, the XO is really sharp


I guess.
It's better if we avoid her for now.

Hmm?

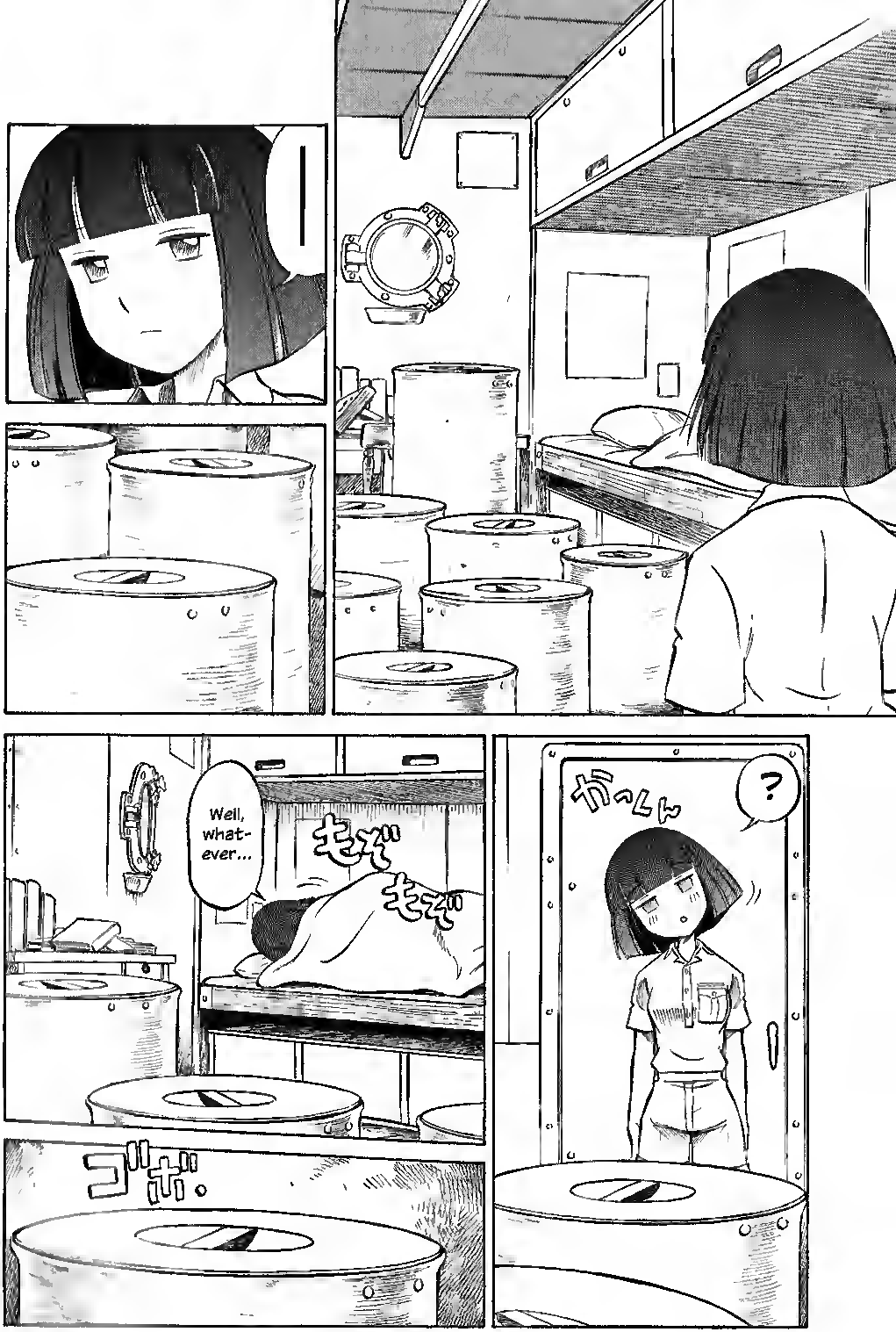

Even if the Comm Officer stays cooped up in the transmission room most of the time, she's bound to go back to her own room at some point.
But will it really be all right?


Yeah...
It was her own sister's idea. It should be fine.


来栖

Kushiku

コンコンコン

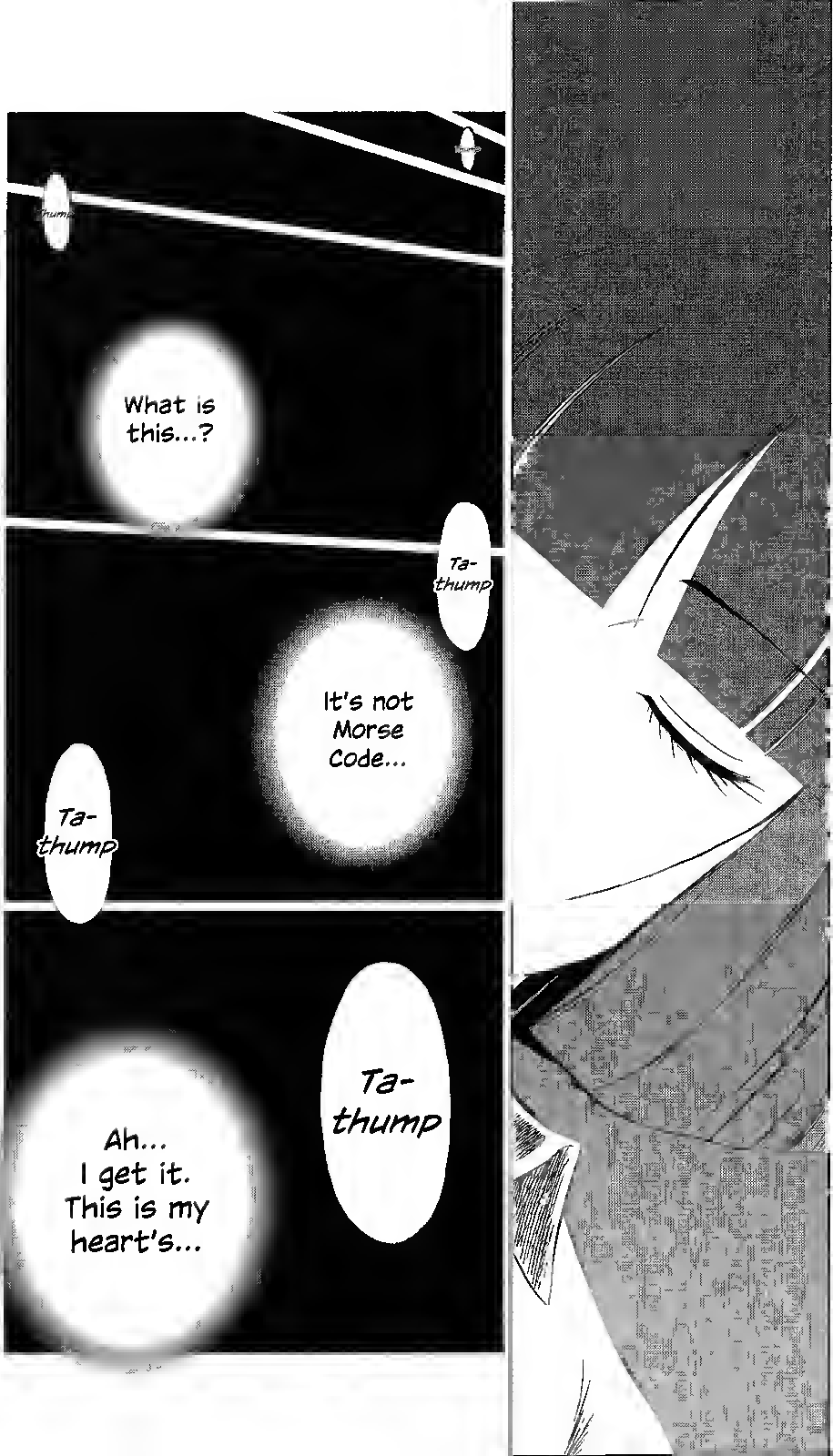

Well, what-ever...
もぞ
もぞ
ゴゴゴ。
ガ～ン
?

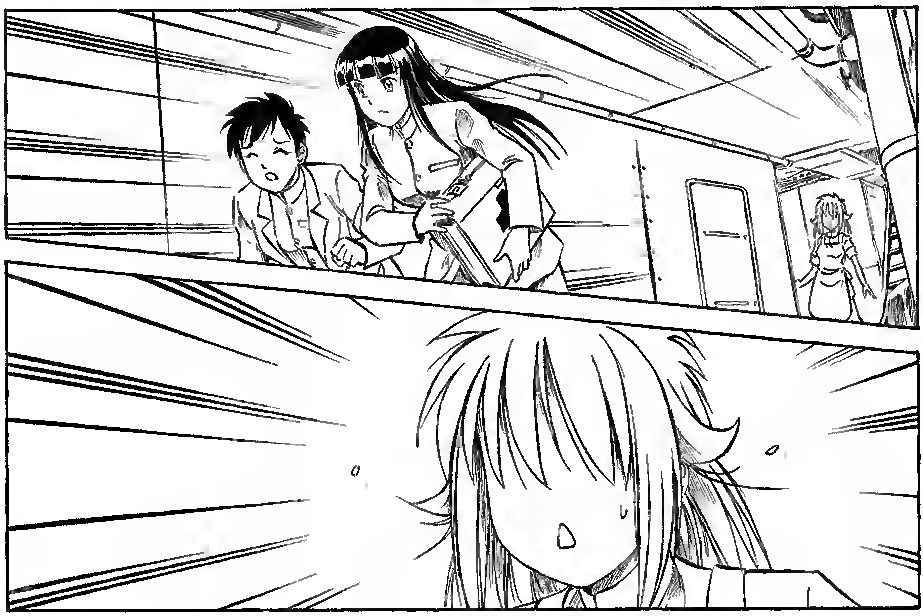
What's going on?!
What does that mean?
I must report this to the Captain...
No. Even if I do that, it's not like we'll learn anything.
Besides, it's the Executive Officer's job to maintain discipline within the ship...
Obama, Murakami, Kobayakawa.
As well as Dr. Mukai, from what they said.
And maybe even Kushiku...
What the hell are they doing?!
No, wait. Chiga might also be involved in this...
There's only one capable person I can trust right now...
First, I'll go investigate Kushiku's room.
Better not go alone, though. I should ask Chiga to go with me...

Mamiya!
Please, come with me!
Kyaaah
I'll follow you to the ends of the Earth, XO.

Kushiku
系統
!
This is Comm Officer Kushiku's...
!
XO, Comm Officer Kushiku is...!
This is...
かぱっ
Th-
Sake?!

ゴゴゴ
Dizzy
Ugh.
Ah!
Okay!
Go call Dr. Mukai right now!
It's carbon dioxide poisoning!
Hang in there!
Kushiku!
ズボー


What is this...?
Ta-thump
It's not Morse Code...
Ta-thump
Ta-thump
Ah... I get it. This is my heart's...



Chapter 27 - End

Chapter 27
The Comm Officer and the Doctor (part 3)
医務
It's all right now.
Thank you, XO. If it weren't for you, she might not have made it.
Oh, not at all. I only did the obvious thing...
I'm glad everything worked out.
ほ
Really, this is all my fault.
If only I hadn't suggested moving the sake into Shiori's room in the first place...
ぼん...
Ah!
ほっ
むぐ

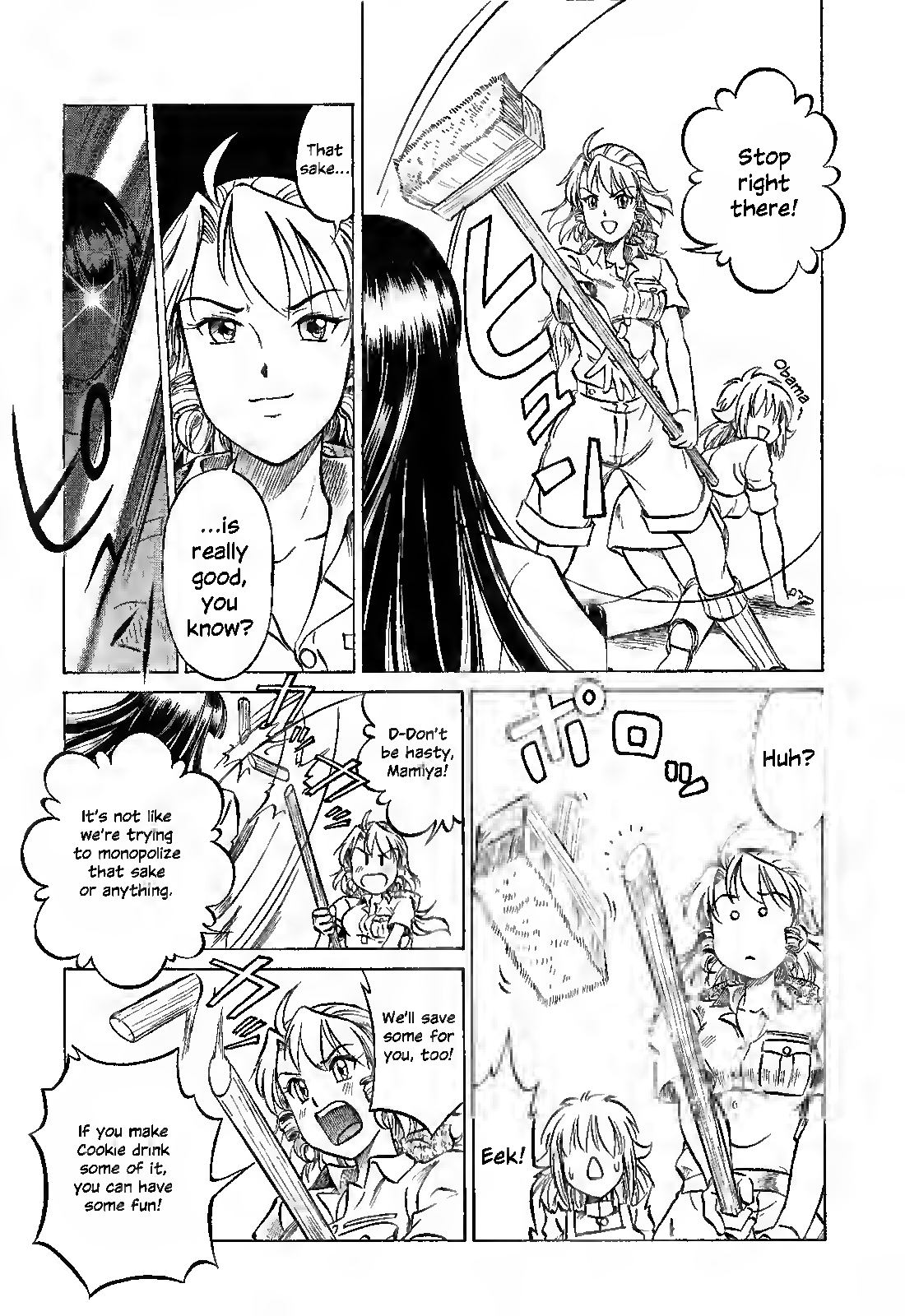
I'd like to hear about that matter in detail, Dr. Mukai.
Oh, dear...
Shiori!
Just what...
もや
もや
...was that...?
ガン ガン
N-No, stop it!
I need to calm down!
ビョーン

That' right. I respect the XO so much precisely because she does things like that!
キッ
ばっ
Swift
ひょい
It's unsightly to get agitated over something like this.
Sneak sneak
そろり
That was only CPR.
It's no reason to get jealous.
カラーン
?

I'm so sorry! The illicit alcohol was stolen!
!
XO~!
It's... It's all because I let my guard down...
Kuh
No... it's my fault for leaving you alone there.
According to Dr. Mukai, the ringleaders of this brewing operation are Obama, Kobayakawa and Murakami.
Those three would be capable to manipulating even you.
しゅん
XO...

Mamiya, go to the Navy Exchange right now and restrain Murakami!
Yes, ma'am!
I'm going to the engine room!
As for me...

Navy Exchange
保酒
保 酒
Kyah! Lady Mamiya
H-How may we help you?
Eek!
Eeek!


That sake...
...is really good, you know?
Stop right there!
Obama~
D-Don't be hasty, Mamiya!
It's not like we're trying to monopolize that sake or anything.
We'll save some for you, too!
If you make Cookie drink some of it, you can have some fun!
ポロッ
Huh?
Eek!

The XO won't even let me join her for a drink!
Don't waste your breath!
How-ever!
Well, you're still technically underage, so of course she would refuse...
ピク
Maybe she'll drink with the Captain, hmm?
I can arrange for you to sit next to Cookie at the dinner party.

Gah!
ざわっ
くた
機関室
Engine Room
Koba-yakawa, I'm here for...
...your surrender and the sake, if you don't mind.
I refuse.
Boss~
Damn it, you guys. I told you not to take Kuki on!
Eeek~
I'm sorry, XO-

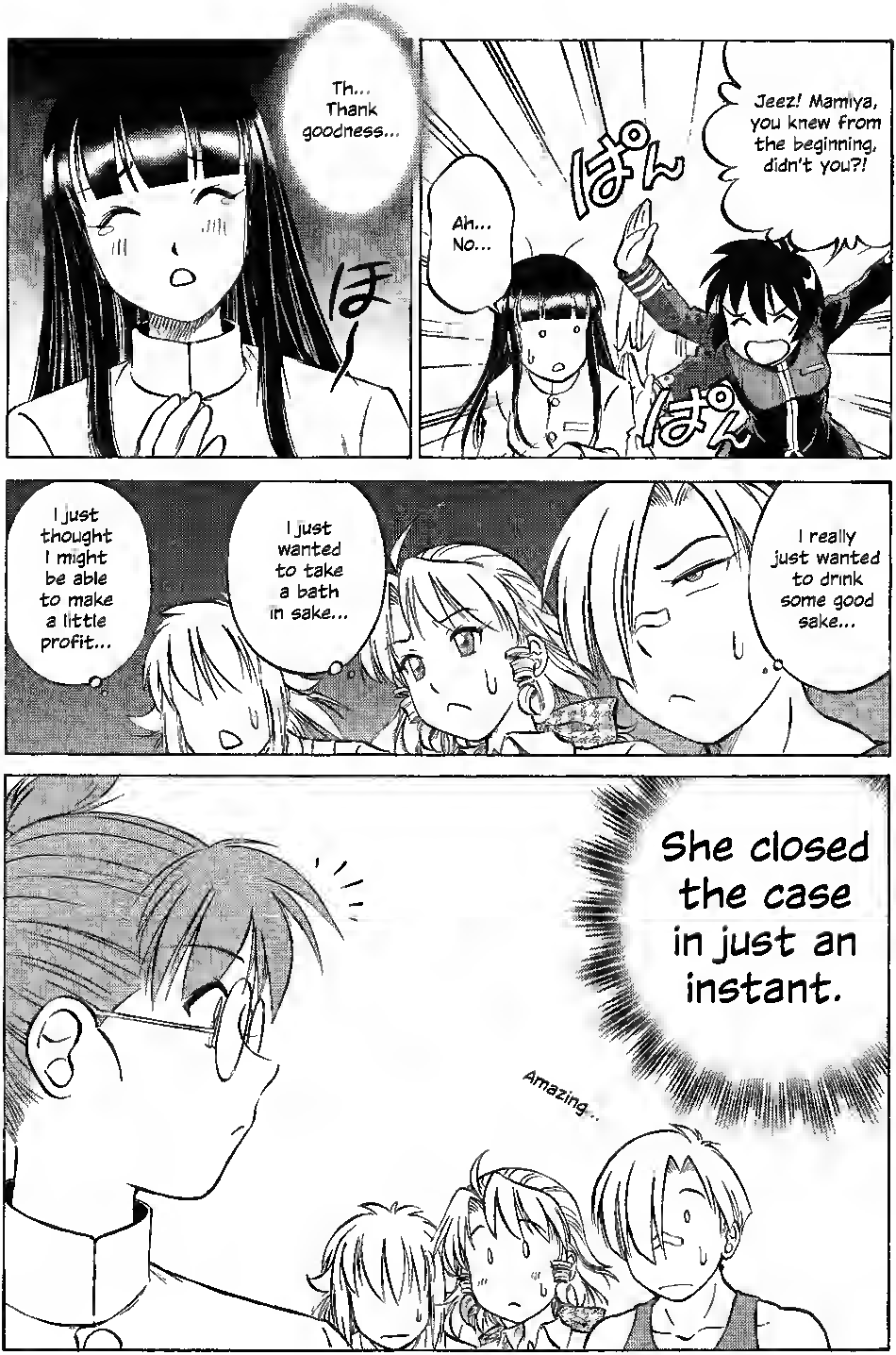
Come on and try it, then!
In that case, I'll take you in by force!

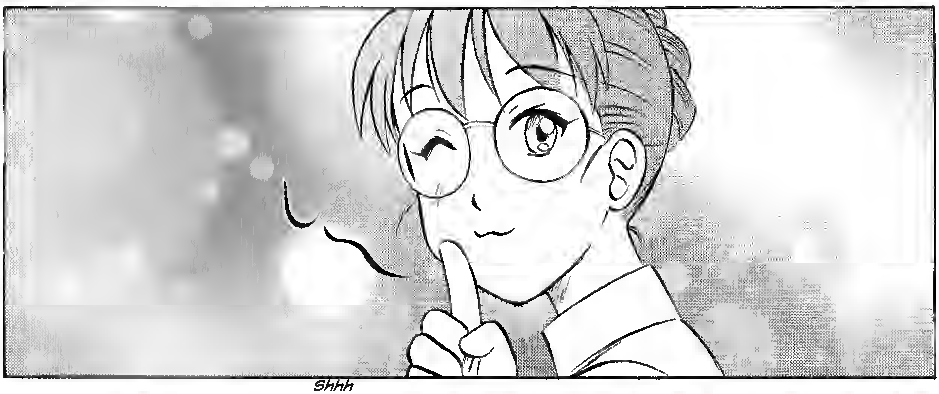
Ma-
Ma-miya?!
カルミィ
!
How awful!
I believed that at least you would be okay!
Ah!
はっ
She made her choice based on love.
Hey. What's going on?
Hello.
Mamiya, what are you doing?!

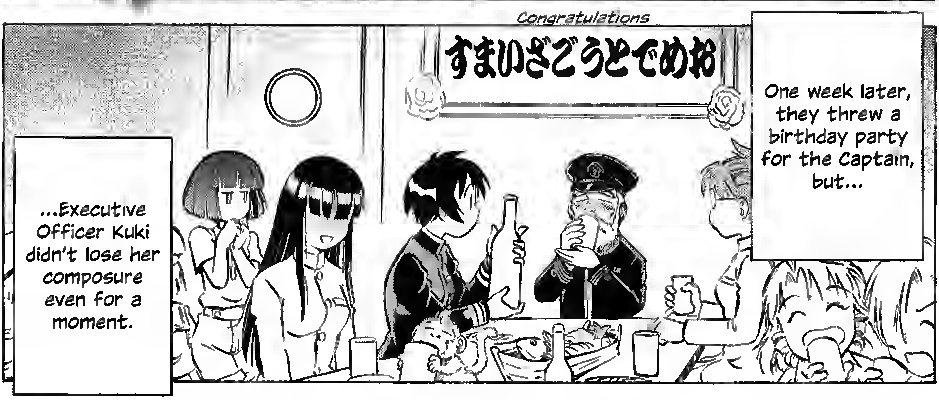
すまぉん
What have I done...
がーん
ゴゴゴ
Eek!
!
ポン

I'm the one who had the idea to brew the sake.
Tee-hee
Chiga?!
Sorry, Cookie.
What did you say?!
Wh-
Well, I had a really hard time thinking what to get for a present.
Why would you do that?!

Ah!
はっ
The Captain!
Yeah, for the birthday next week.
Pre-sent?
?
Hm
Next week?
Birth-day...
W-Well, let's just say I didn't handle this very well and...
mumble mumble
Thanks. The Captain sure likes his sake, doesn't he?
What the hell?!
コホン
Ahem


Th... Thank goodness...
ほ
Jeez! Mamiya, you knew from the beginning, didn't you?!
Ah... No...
ぱん
ぱん
I just thought I might be able to make a little profit...
I just wanted to take a bath in sake...
I really just wanted to drink some good sake...
She closed the case in just an instant.
Amazing...

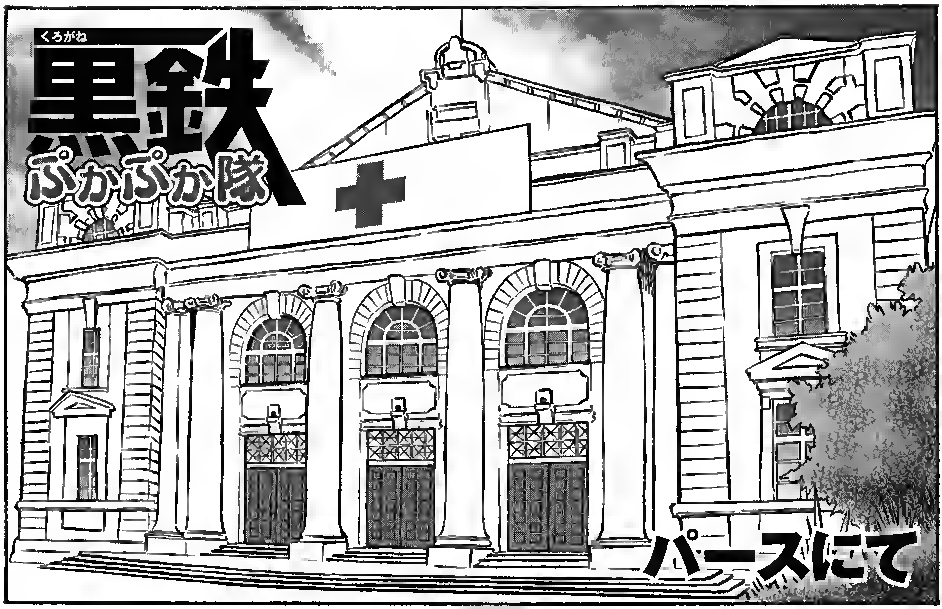


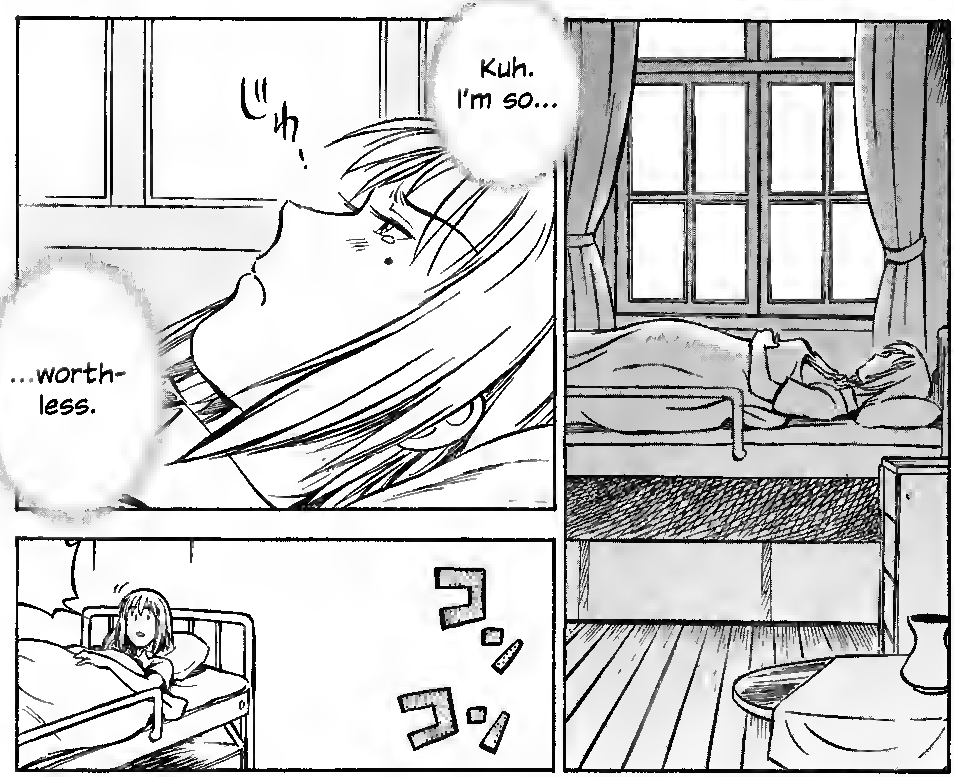

Congratulations
すまいざごうとでめお
One week later, they threw a birthday party for the Captain, but...
...Executive Officer Kuki didn't lose her composure even for a moment.

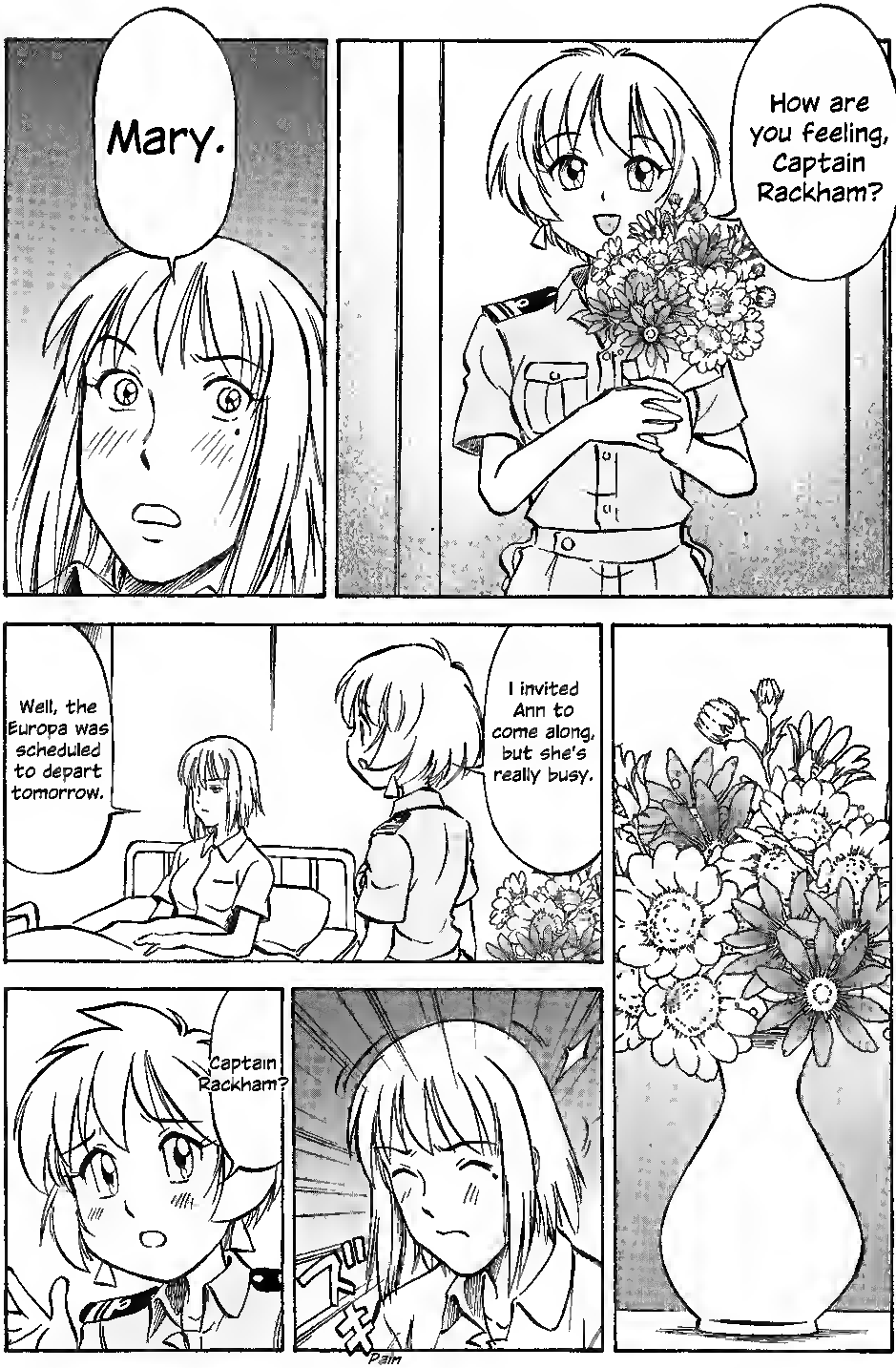
Chapter 28 - End

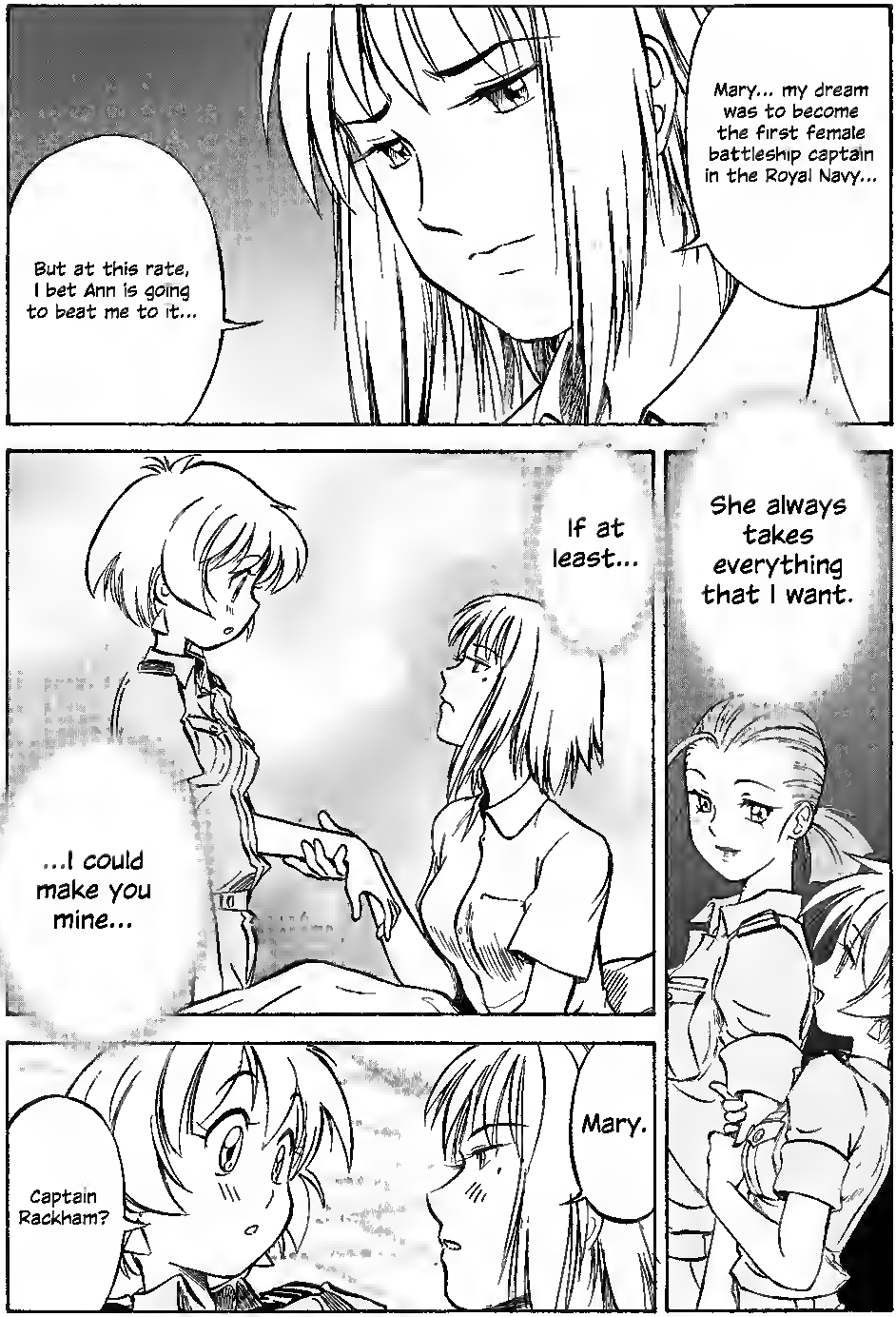
Chief Medical Officer Mukai

Head of the Unebi's medical department. She's a heavy drinker, to the point that she attempted to brew sake inside the ship with Obama, Kobayakawa and Murakami...
One of the few married people on the Unebi, her husband is an army medic (currently on assignment in Singapore). Communications Officer Kushiku is her younger sister.


くろがね
黒鉄
ぷかぷか隊
パースにて
In Perth


Kuh. I'm so...
...worth-less.
コ、
コ、

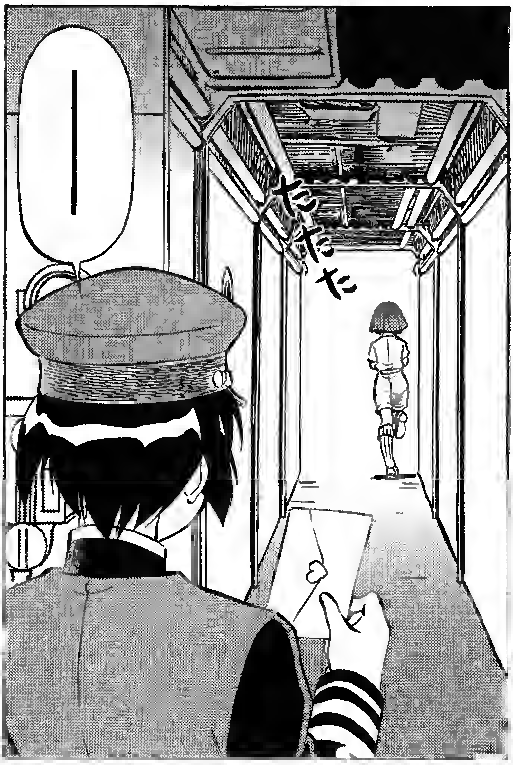

Mary.
How are you feeling, Captain Rackham?
Well, the Europa was scheduled to depart tomorrow.
I invited Ann to come along, but she's really busy.
Captain Rackham?
Pain


Mary... my dream was to become the first female battleship captain in the Royal Navy...
But at this rate, I bet Ann is going to beat me to it...
She always takes everything that I want.
If at least...
...I could make you mine...
Mary.
Captain Rackham?

ヒソ
Hey, Mary. I'm here to pick you up.
Battleships will probably be of little use in the near future, anyway.
You're a foolish woman, Joanna Rackham.
Miss Captain!
Kyaaah! Someone call the Doctor, quickly!
Damn you, Ann!

Chapter 29
In the Stormy Night... (part 1)
What a problem.
As soon as we changed the course, we run into this huge storm..
It looks like it's gonna get even worse...
Can we get through it?
Hmm
Err...
Leave it to me.
That's awful. Do they have enough people?
Kurushima was in tears with all the water-proofing she had to do.
Err...
Don't worry, they're already done.

Err...


たたた

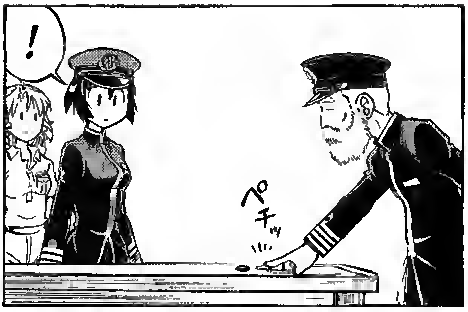
Comm Officer Kushiku...
What is it?

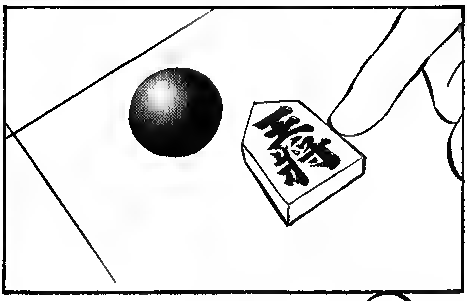
Here...

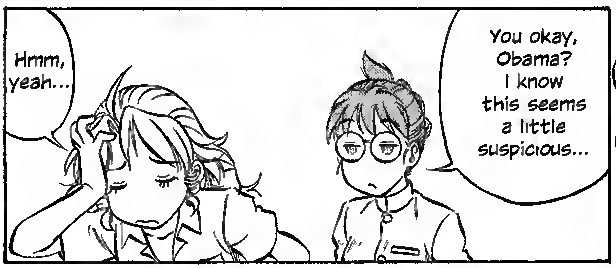
Jeez, Chiga. What are you talking about?
My, what a cute little envelope. Is it a love letter?
We've received a distress signal!
Captain!
?
Ah!
In this weather, it's gonna take us around three hours to get there.
パチ
The location is here. We believe it's a Trawler, but the transmission was cut before we could identify what country it's from.

That's right.
Are you kidding? In the middle of a mission, and in this weather?
Captain, let's go rescue them.
It might be a ship from an enemy country, you know.
きりっ
Even so, I think we must rescue them all the same. Because we're all sailors.
XO～♡
ﾊｱｰ

ばぁ
The Unebi will now move to rescue the distressed ship.


!
ペチッ




Hmm, yeah...
You okay, Obama? I know this seems a little suspicious...

Yes, ma'am.
Mamiya, please get a relief squad ready.

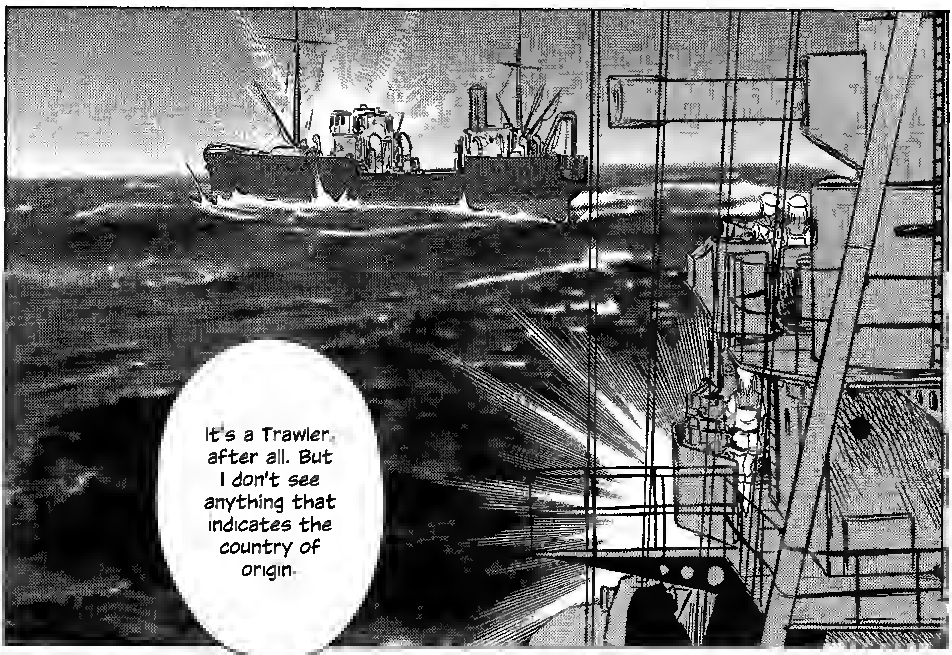
Excited

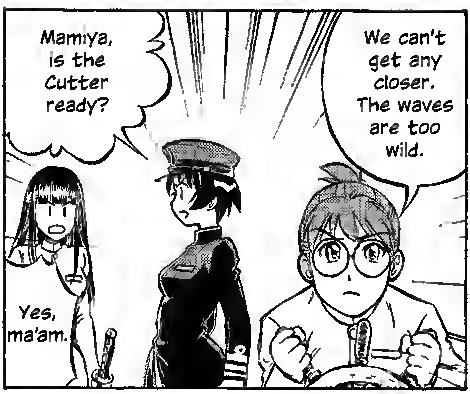
ハキハキ
But look at that expression on Cookie's face...
Makes it kinda difficult to object, doesn't it...

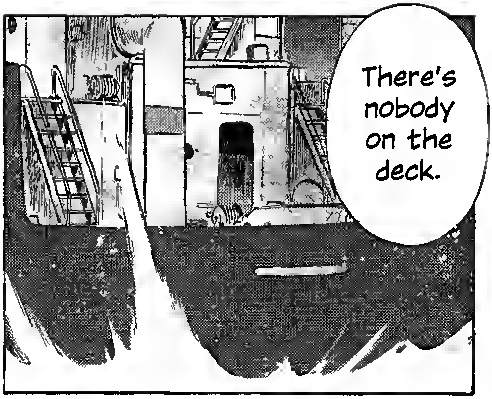
Cookie being unaware of it herself is still a problem, but...
...the fact that she attracts so many girls has got to be some kind of curse.
I suppose. Mamiya looks really happy.
What do you mean, "Cookie's harem"?
Is that what captivates the members of Cookie's harem?
Sparkle
Don't worry, we're only friends to her.
It's fine.
Your taste for boys is also a problem
Shudder
I definitely prefer boys
That curse is not going to cause us to join her harem, is it?
Tremble
Besides...
...if anything happens, we gotta have her back. That's what friendship is all about.
Yes, it's suspicious.
Putting that aside, doesn't this distressed ship thing seem kinda weird?
The Captain already approved it.
If that's what you think, then you should speak up.

!
I see it!
There's a mast at 2 o'clock!
Your eyes are amazing as usual
You're so reliable
As expected of Chiga.

Curse? What are you talking about?
The power of your curse has been getting stronger lately...
This could be dangerous


It's a Trawler, after all. But I don't see anything that indicates the country of origin.


Mamiya, is the Cutter ready?
We can't get any closer. The waves are too wild.
Yes, ma'am.

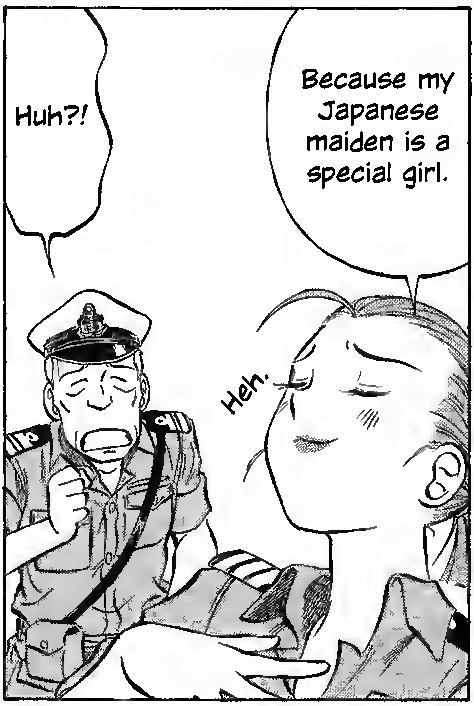

There's nobody on the deck.

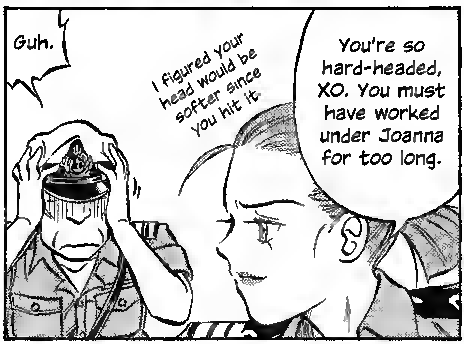
It will be tough to get through these waves.
!

XO!

XO... please refrain from doing such dangerous things.
You're such a worry-wart.
Okay!
Mamiya, throw me a rope!
!
Anyway, Mamiya. This boat seems a little weird.

I've been wanting to see you, Japanese maiden.
N-No way.
How could they fall for such a shallow trap?


Because my Japanese maiden is a special girl.
Huh?!
Heh.


You're so hard-headed, XO. You must have worked under Joanna for too long.
I figured your head would be softer since you hit it.
Guh.

Please explain it to me, for future reference.
Why did you think this plan would succeed?

ゴオオオオ
What are you talking about?!
You get it, don't you? She's kind, sweet and her heart is stronger than steel.
Well then, let's get the Europa right next to that boat!
That's reckless in these waves! And the Unebi is nearby!
It's fine. Trust me.

ガラーン
I can't find the radio.
And I can't find any documents or anything.
It's like a discarded vessel...
!
Nothing, I just felt a chill...
XO, what's wrong?
Shudder

A Cruiser?!
ドドド
ドドド
ドドド
Kyah!
!

Chapter 29 - End

Chapter 29
In the Stormy Night...(part 2)
ばっ
XO!
We need to go help everyone, Mamiya.
Yes, ma'am.

XO!
Guh!

No, I can't!
Mamiya!
Take everyone and go back to the Unebi!
Mamiya!
...

Captain's orders. Capture them alive.
Aye!
We're leaving. Everyone, get in the cutter.
Lady Mamiya!
Yes, ma'am!

Haa...
Haa...

カ!!
ズ
ン
ズ
ン

すりすり
Shudder
Rub rub

Phew~
I wonder if everyone's okay.
step

I'm gonna peel the skin off your face!

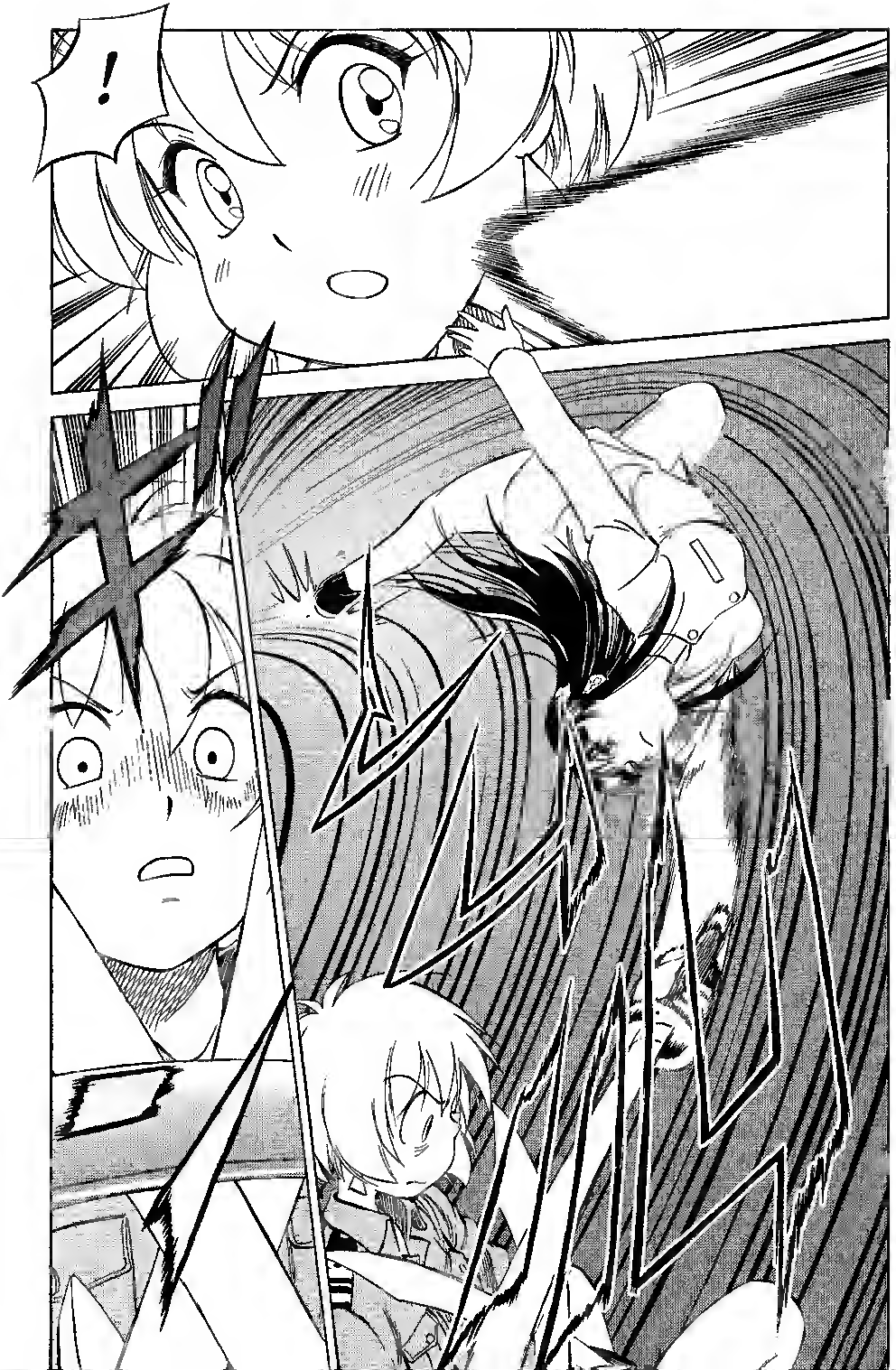
ガバッ
ハッ
ハッ
ハ

Well, they wouldn't hit us with all this swaying.
They're not firing at us.
Hurry up and get everyone on board!
Are they going to use that Trawler as a shield?
Wanna give it a try? I think we can hit them if we shoot several rounds.
Eh?
Who?
Bad news! we still have people in the Trawler!
The XO and...

...Mamiya!

XO! What have they done to you?!
ボ
Mamiya! What about the others?!
They're all safe back on the Unebi...
Ah.
Burning
Mamiya?
メラメラ
I'll kill that woman! I'll totally kill her!
Please leave this to me and head to the stern of the ship.

Yes, ma'am!
I'm counting on you, Mamiya!
You're not getting away from me!
I'll just ignore this sword girl!
No time to play around with her.

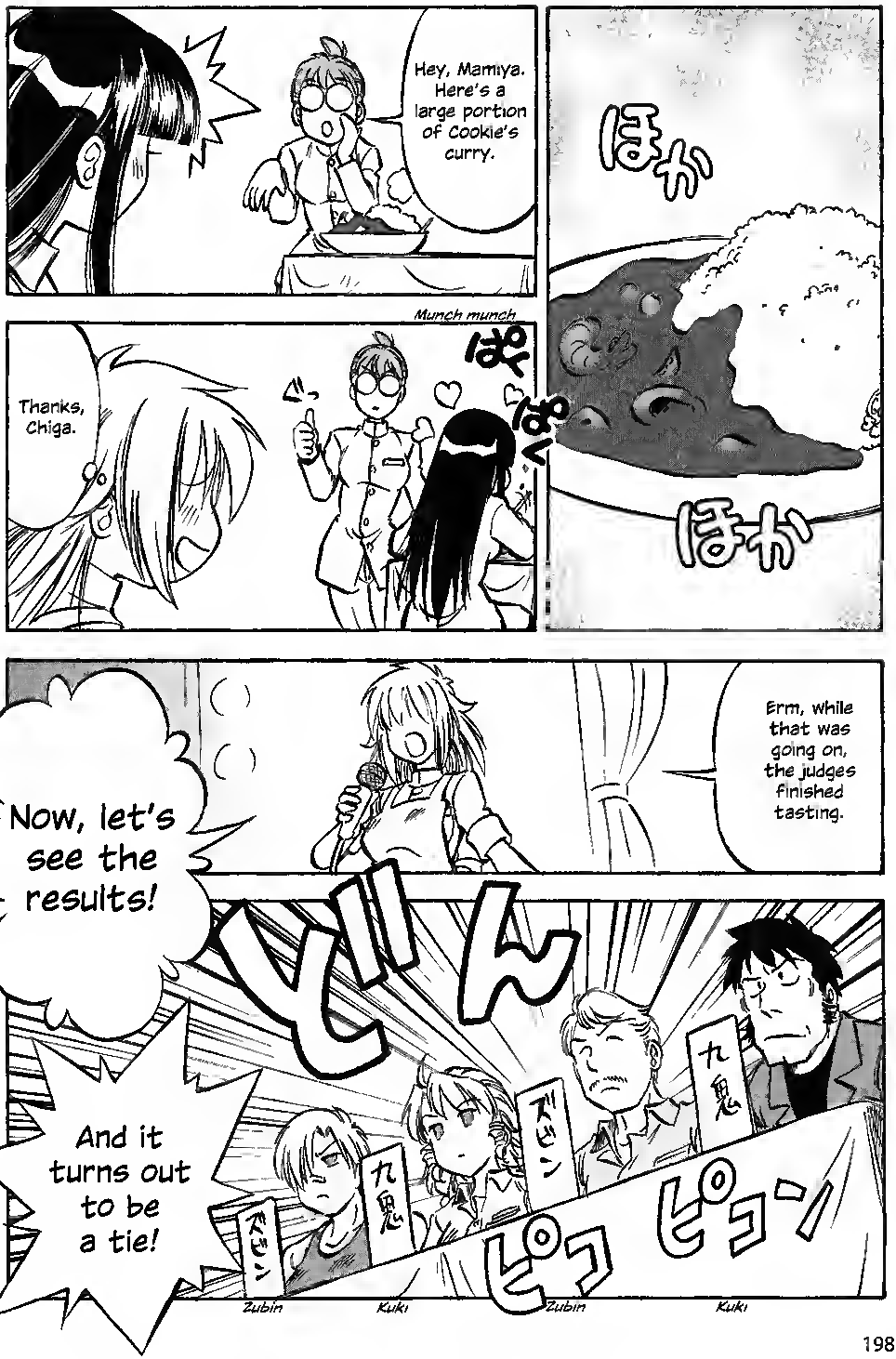


Chapter 30 - End

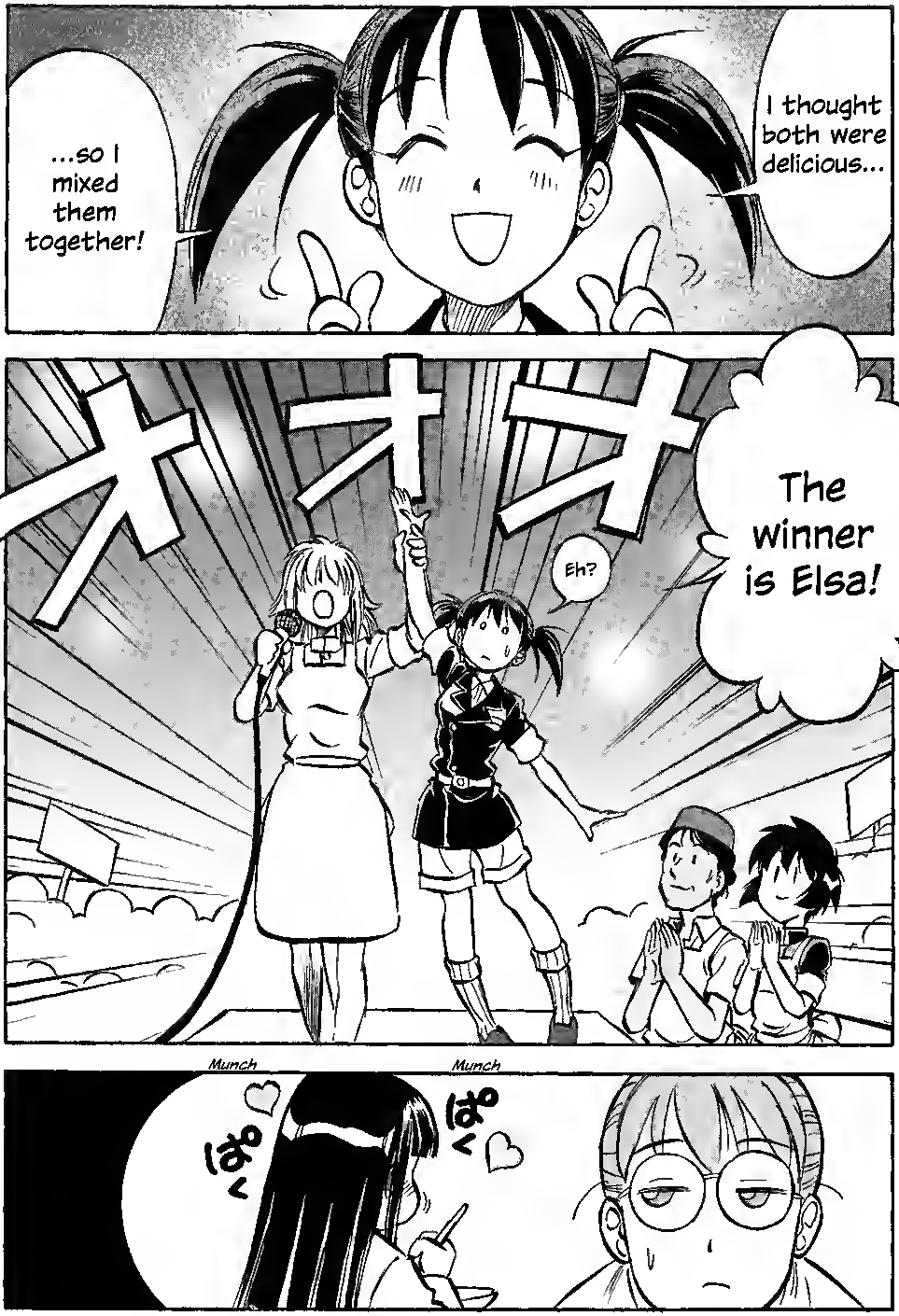
カレーは
みんな大好き
黒鉄
ぷかぷか隊
Engine Soul
機関魂
We're at the second Unebi Cooking Contest!
As well as our very own Obama and Kobayakawa.
Navigation Officer Billy, from a British transport ship.
Our judges are: Mr. Yan, from a Dutch ship.
It's time for the final showdown!

The way she chopped up that tuna last time was just amazing.
Kyaaah~ Lady Mamiya~
And finally, the winner of the last contest, Chief of Internal Affairs Mamiya.
The finalists this time are:
Our very own Cookie...
...and the Indian representative, Mr. Zubin.
Ding dong
Ah.
Not yet, Mamiya.
ピコン
ピク
九鬼
Kuki

Begin cooking
Mr Zubin is preparing chicken curry...
...and the XO seems to be making seafood curry...
I said not yet, Mamiya!
ピコーン
Ding dong
九鬼
Kuki
Ding dong
ピコーン
Shouldn't we remove Mamiya? She's totally biased.
I guess we should.
九鬼
Kuki
They're both finished!


Hey, Mamiya. Here's a large portion of Cookie's curry.
Munch munch
Thanks, Chiga.
ぱく
ぱく
ほか
ほか
Erm, while that was going on, the judges finished tasting.
Now, let's see the results!
ピコーン
ピコーン
九鬼
ズビン
九鬼
ズビン
And it turns out to be a tie!
Zubin
Kuki
Zubin
Kuki

No! The original flavor!
The XO's is better!
いや！本場のが！
副長、うまい!!
Eek! It's turning into a huge brawl with crew members and prisoners alike!
Shut up!
You don't know crap about cooking!
このメシマズ
うるせぇ
I don't like seafood, all right?!
You bastard! Why did you choose the Indian?!
But the original flavor is good every once in a while
That Japanese flavor is really calming.
Hey, you two. Give this a try.
ﾋﾟｺｰﾝ


I thought both were delicious...
...so I mixed them together!
The winner is Elsa!
Eh?
Munch
Munch
ぱく
ぱく

Afterword

I was really impressed by the main ground cannon, as well as by the stories about life in the academy that the guide cadet told us. Then he told us about the "Gosei".

When I was in middle school, I had a field trip to the Officer Candidate School in Etajima.

Well then,

let's meet again in volume 4.

"Hast thou not gone against sincerity?"
"Hast thou not felt ashamed of thy words and deeds?"
"Hast thou not lacked vigor?"
"Hast thou exerted all possible efforts?"
"Hast thou not become slothful?"

I think I have a lot to reflect on now that I'm old...

黒鉄ぷかぷか隊 Vol.3

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